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THE TIMES

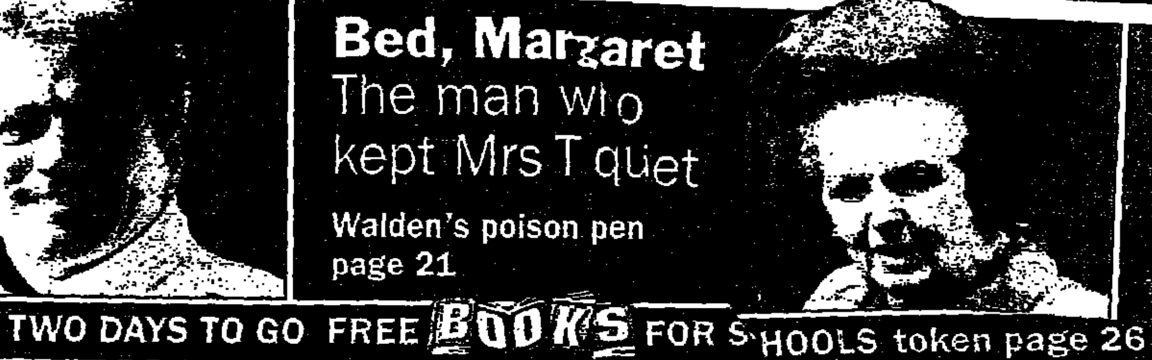
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No. 66,500 THURSDAY APRIL 29 1999 http://www.the-times.co.uk

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Julia Roberts What's she got to smile about? page 37



30p EVERY WEEKDAY

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Times poll shows Tory leader's poor image

Hague fights to save his political life

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, ROLAND WATSON, ANDREW PIERCE AND PETER RIDDELL

WILLIAM HAGUE *battled for his* political life last night by delivering a pledge of loyalty to Margaret Thatcher and her inheritance.

Struggling to contain the crisis *that has hit his leadership* and confronted by a MORI poll showing *support for the party and its leader* were slipping still further, Mr Hague faced all of his MPs and promised to consult them more.

And he moved again Ito appease the Right and silence rumblings about his position in a speech last night when he denied that his efforts *to improve the party's image* on health and education *meant that* it was abandoning Baroness Thatcher — "one of its truly great leaders" — or the free market — "its great source of inspiration".

But he refused to retreat from his attempt to kill the notion that the Tories *favour the privatisation of the health and education services, emphasising* the limits to private sector solutions to their problems.

The appearance before the 1922 Committee was a gamble and he finally decided to go ahead with it only an hour before the meeting *started — his Shadow* Cabinet *having closed ranks behind him.*

He delivered a short speech, conceding that the events of the past eight days could have been better handled and promising to listen to them more. According to his aides, he received the biggest cheer when *he told them that their purpose was to return to power and* and "*not to* have theological arguments about every point of policy".

He declared that despite the "worries, criticisms and misapprehensions" that he had encountered, he would not be deterred from making *his commitment to the public services* plain. "I will go through any number of arguments, take on anyone in debate, endure any criticism, do whatever it takes to get across this position on health and education that is true to the instincts and principles of our party."

The appearance at *the 1922 Committee came after* Mr Hague had been warned by his Chief Whip James Arbuthnot that the parliamentary party was in a state of revolt. Senior backbenchers had said that feeling was running so high *against the strategy unleashed by Peter Lilley, the deputy* leader, *that* they would have little difficulty collecting the 24 signatures needed to trigger a vote of confidence in Mr Hague's leadership.

At the backbenchers' meeting, *Mr Hague* gave the strong avowal *of support* for Margaret Thatcher that he was to *repeat* later at a London fund-raising dinner.

He declared that he had joined the Conservative Party because of Margaret Thatcher and was proud to celebrate the 20th anniversary of her election victory. He had always believed passionately that the free *market* was essential to ensuring freedom, prosperity and personal responsibility. But it was not the policy of the Thatcher Government to extend the free market to every aspect of national life.

"If the criticism is that we are *turning our backs on* Margaret Thatcher and the free markets, I say that we will always be proud of Margaret Thatcher and we will always be champions *of the free market. But we also believe , as previous* Conservative governments have, that schools and hospitals paid for by all taxpayers should be available to everyone in the country."

Mr Hague's critics on the *backbenches were in full* cry, complaining *at the muddle in the party's message* and the desperately poor timing of Mr Lilley's attempt to change public perceptions of the party. Mr Lilley himself came in for huge criticism from senior backbenchers, many saying that he was out of touch and complaining *about* the *slow* pace and *lack of imagination in his policy review.*

The Shadow Cabinet has voiced deep unhappiness at the way the Lilley plan was executed and Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, has privately distanced himself from the Lilley speech.

Mr Maude, a member of the *Conservative* Central *Office strategy* group which backed the campaign to try to change the Tories image on the health service, complained directly to Mr Hague about the failed execution of the plan.

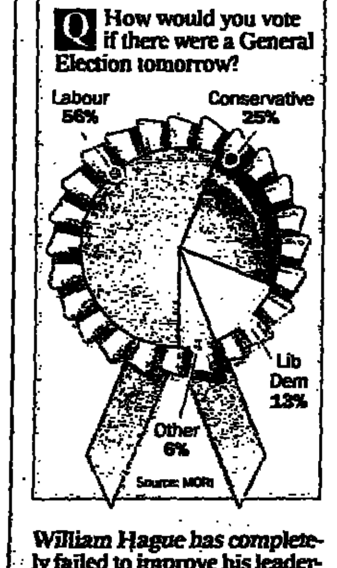
"Francis is loyal and keeps his views private. *But there is no doubt he was deeply unhappy* with the *spin* which was put on the speech by Central Office," one aide said. "The last thing he wanted for us was to apologise for something we had not done wrong. There is a growing consensus that the *Lilley speech* was badly handled, not *just in the lack of consultation, but in the way it was written. It was careless,* not least in what it omitted. Francis shares the views of most people in the party that this went badly wrong.We do have to slay the dragon over the NHS. But not the way Lilley chose to do it."

The Maude camp is still clinging to the hope the row will still help the Tories on the doorstep by reinforcing the view that the they will defend the NHS.

A mood of deep despondency pervaded party headquarters yesterday. *An inquest was held at the early morning strategy meeting over the revelations in The Times* about the sacking of Michael Simmonds, the director of research and marketing, who was accused of leaking the first draft of Mr Lilley's speech, which went much further in denouncing *Thatcherite ideology.*

Mr Arbuthnot was livid that his description of the crisis gripping the parliamentary party had been leaked to *The Times* and Michael Ancram, the party chairman, made an implicit threat that anyone caught talking out *of turn to the press would be sacked on the spot.*

Blame Basildon, page 14
Leading article, page 23



William Hague has completely failed to improve his leadership image — particularly among Tories, who rate Tony Blair more highly as a leader, the latest MORI poll for *The Times* shows. Mr Hague's personal rating has dropped *from minus 26 to minus* 31, and among Tories it now stands at minus 26, which means that twice as many disapprove of his leadership as approve .... **Page 2**



"Let me through, I'm a Conservative"



ALEX LENTATI/Reuters

Alan Farthing speaking about his fiancée, Jill Dando, who was murdered on Monday. He appealed for anyone with any information or suspicions to contact the police

'I cannot understand why they would want to kill someone as gentle, kind and well meaning and as perfect a person as Jill'

The fiancé of Jill Dando spoke of his incomprehension and grief yesterday as the search for her killer made slow progress.

Alan Farthing, who was planning to marry the television presenter later this year, said that he could think of no reason for the murder of such a "beautiful, caring and well-meaning" person.

The investigation has been hampered by a delay in issuing pictures of the suspect. Scotland Yard said detectives were still trying to find a witness who got a good enough view of a man seen loitering near Miss Dando's home and running away after the shooting. *At least five men and two* women witnesses have come forward and detectives are examining which one could provide the E-Fit.

Miss Dando had recently sold her house, in Fulham, west London, it emerged, and *planned to move* in with Mr Farthing. The buyers spoke of their sadness last night.

Farthing speaks, page 5
Dr Stuttaford, page 20
Mick Hume, page 22
Radio, page 39

Belgrade riven as dissenter is sacked

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

VUK DRASKOVIC, who has criticised President Milosevic and claimed that Belgrade was ready to accept a peace *deal over Kosovo, was dismissed as* Yugoslavia's Deputy *Prime* Minister yesterday.

The move came a few days after he had publicly declared that Mr Milosevic should acknowledge Nato could not be defeated. He also urged the Government *in Belgrade* to *stop lying about the country's deteriorating economy* after weeks of Nato bombing.

Nato said that the dismissal was a sign of Mr Milosevic's increasing isolation and "the first visible fracture" in the Yugoslav leadership. Mr Draskovic *had* paid the price of speaking the *truth*, a *Nato official* said.

Mr Draskovic said yesterday: "I don't know what precipitated my removal. I haven't spoken to Milosevic."

Nato admitted yesterday that a laser-guided bomb had "gone astray" over *the town of Surdulica in southern Serbia, hitting a residential area instead of* a military barracks. The Yugoslav authorities said that up to 20 civilians had been killed, including six children.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said that he regretted the civil*ian deaths. Later Tony Blair repeated* to the Commons that Nato took every possible precaution to avoid civilian casualties.

As Nato's air campaign went into its sixth week, efforts to find a peace settlement continued, with more meetings in Moscow. However, Strobe Talbott, the *American Deputy Secretary of State, on a visit to Berlin after going to* Moscow, said that there was nothing to indicate that Mr Milosevic was closer to accepting Nato's five demands.

In Berlin, Mr Talbott met *Kofi* Annan, the *United Nations* Secretary-*General*, before he *flew to Moscow* where he will see *President* Yeltsin today. As part of an intensification of diplomatic efforts to end the Kosovo crisis, *Rudolf Scharping, the German Defence Minister*, was also in *Moscow* yesterday, meeting Russian leaders.

He said yesterday: "There are elements that increase the hope of a political solution slightly, though one should *not overrate them."*

However, Goran Matic, a senior Yugoslav official, was quoted in the *New York Times* as saying that the basic outline of an agreement on Kosovo could be "firmed up" this week.

INSIDE

Thatcher's 'anecdotage'

A SAD picture of the retired Margaret Thatcher, including allegations that she drank too much, is painted by the former Conservative minister *George Walden today.*

In his memoirs, being serialised in *The Times*, Mr Walden says that "the most vigorous and intelligent Prime Minister in decades" had reached a "premature anecdotage".

He says that Margaret Thatcher had *not taken her loss of power* well. "She was also drinking too much. In the old days she would put down a whisky soda or two late in the evening after her umpteen-hour day; now she seemed to have had a little too much before dinner. There was no arguing with her anymore; *in fact it was impossible to talk to her.*"

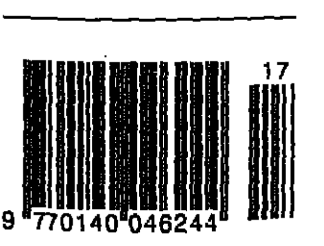
Mr Walden adds: "The moment you said anything she would grip your arm and, with a steadfast look, deliver herself of some pronunciamento that sounded as *if it* had *been borrowed from the archives. She had reached the point where she* did not know she was doing it."

The Walden memoirs, page 21

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Fox-hunting black joins the masters



Derek Laud: first in the field

BY TIM REID

FOR *one of the nation's most conservative*, white, male-dominated pursuits, it is almost a revolution. Britain has just got its first black master of foxhounds.

Derek Laud, 39, a London venture cap*italist*, has been elected joint master of *the prestigious, 210-year-old* New Forest *Foxhounds, a post he takes up on May 1.*

"*I don't think the hunt are conscious of* the colour of my skin," Mr Laud told *The Times last* night. "But we don't want to *put distance between us and anyone that* wants to participate in this sport. It doesn't matter if they are a woman or a man, gay or straight."

John Moore, chairman of the hunt club, said: "*His colour has nothing to do with it. He's just a bloody nice bloke. He's a good rider, popular, and kind to other members of the hunt.*"

Mr Laud, who traces his roots to Jamaica, was once challenged *on his horse* by an *anti-hunt saboteur* on the grounds that 100 years ago similar people would have been hunting him. "Yes," he countered, "but 200 years ago I would have been eating them."

Mr Laud came to prominence in the early 1990s as the first — *and to date only* — black member of the right-wing Monday Club.

THE TIMES THURSDAY APRIL 29 1999

Hapless pawn aught unawares in midst of a bigger game



LET us be fair to Charlotte Atkins: Prime Minister's Questions always did rollercoaster between the sublime and the ridiculous.

There is nothing new in the sight of MPs clutching their stomachs as the House makes a sickening lurch from a humanitarian catastrophe in Albania to an outbreak of cat flu in Bolton. Members may raise what they please: and do. The result is an eclectic mix of domestic bees in local bonnets, with questions on the destiny of mankind.

So for Ms Atkins it was more bad luck than bad judgment that her question on the status of chess immediately followed an impassioned outburst from the Prime Minister on the horrors of Kosovo.

That Balkan exchange, like those that followed, had been delivered to a resolute House. I reported last week that the Commons barometer had moved to "unsettled". Yesterday it inched back towards a stable high pressure. William Hague (poor thing) sounded rather bleak — just go through the motions. Noly unexpected moved off-ssage. But Ms Atkins tem-arily lost the plot.

TiLabour MP for Stafford.re Moorlands is neither obsessive nor a fool. And ere is no reason why she sluld not raise, at this highe: of levels, the grievance i chess players that their gme is not recognised as a spot.

Nor could she choose her moment when to speak: MPs who want to intervene have to start eaping up from the very outset, to catch the Chair's attention. Ms Atkins did.

Disaster! She succeeded too early: immediately after Mr Hague had been cross-questioning Tony Blair about the conflict in the Balkans. Mr Blair had worked himself into particular outrage at Serbian atrocities. Steam was still coming from his ears.

This was not the momat for chess. But, as Miss Bothroyd called her name, was too late for Ms Atkins con-coct a new question on the rape of Albania. She ploughed through r protest against the per cution of chess players.

MPs' brows rrowed. People began uttering and shaking their heads. Frontbenchers looked uncomfortable. After too long, Ms Atkins sat down: a loyal new-Labourite who had asked a fair question, but with unlucky timing.

It was instructive to note the ruthlessness with which Mr Blair let her swing. The Labour Whips' Office now tries to select who will intervene, and to orchestrate questions, so this sketch would be surprised if she had given no notice of what she hoped to raise — but it is possible.

In any event, whether or not Mr Blair could have dealt with her question, he chose to make light of it. In mock-exasperation he protested — in effect — that prime ministers do get rogue coconuts like this thrown at them, and simply have to duck.

Rather wittily he remarked that he was looking in vain along his front bench for help. Everyone laughed: laughed with him, and at Ms Atkins, who looked a bit wretched.

The effect was to play to the mood of the House, joining others in grinning at the inappropriateness of Charlotte Atkins's Question. Most journalists will admire the skill and light touch with which Mr Blair extracted himself unscathed from a potentially awkward exchange.

But this sketchwriter, who has been a backbencher, felt for Ms Atkins. Somewhere in her half-consciousness a tiny arrow has now lodged. In a phrase of Thornton Wilder's, "wrapped in layers of forgiveness and understanding, it sank into her heart".

Relaunch of Hague fails with voters

Poll shows that even many Tories prefer Blair, writes Peter Riddell

SUPPORT for William Hague has dropped sharply among Tory supporters, who rate Tony Blair more highly as a leader, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*. This is a further blow to Mr Hague as he tries to assert his authority.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, shows that the Tories have fallen even further behind Labour ahead of the local, Scottish and Welsh elections next Thursday. Moreover, Mr Hague has completely failed to improve his leadership image, particularly among Tory supporters.

Labour is now at the top end of its post-election range at 56 per cent, up two points since late March, while the Tories have fallen back two points over the month to 25 per cent. The Liberal Democrats are unchanged on 13 per cent.

Mr Hague's personal rating has deteriorated despite the attempts to relaunch his image, and may reflect the initial impact of the Tory row over Peter Lilley's speech last week on public spending. His approval rating, measuring those satisfied less dissatisfied with his performance as party leader, has fallen from minus 26 to minus 31 points, the lowest level since last September.

Even more worrying for Mr Hague is that his rating among Tory supporters is almost as bad. This figure has fluctuated sharply in recent months, but, by a margin of nearly two-to-one (56 to 30 per cent), Tory supporters are dissatisfied rather than satisfied with Mr Hague's performance.

Over the last few months, his approval rating among Tories has been minus 15, minus 4, minus 27, minus 3 and, now, minus 26 points.

MORI this month asked a series of questions about the image of the party leaders. On each of the 14 measures, Mr Hague not only lags well behind Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown, but also shows no sign of improvement compared with when he became Tory leader nearly two years ago. For instance Mr Hague's rating as a capable leader has remained stuck at 10 per cent since autumn 1997, compared with 51 per cent who rate Mr Blair as capable. Similarly, an unchanged nine per cent believe Mr Hague understands world problems, against 38 per cent who believe Mr Blair does.

Moreover, on nine of the 14 measures, Tory supporters rate Mr Blair more highly than their own leader, Mr Hague. For instance, 39 per cent of Tories regard Mr Blair as a capable leader, but only 17 per cent have the same view of Mr Hague. The contrast, among Tory supporters, is 21 to 5 per cent between the leaders on being good in a crisis, and 33 to 7 per cent on having a lot of personality.

By contrast, Mr Blair's rating remains very strong and has probably been helped by his handling of Kosovo. His rating, satisfied less dissatisfied, has risen from plus 32 to plus 35 points in the past month, to the highest level since August 1998.

☐ *MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,966 adults at 162 sampling points across Britain on April 23 to 26. Voting intention figures exclude those who would not vote (9 per cent), who are undecided (7 per cent) or who refused to say (1 per cent).*

Leading article, page 23

ADAM BUTLER



The Prince of Wales is shown canteen food yesterday at a hostel for the homeless in Victoria, London. As part of the Prince's backing for initiatives involving the homeless, tailored suits are to be given to those attending job interviews (Alexandra Frean writes). Business leaders have pledged to help the Prince's project, Business Action on Homelessness, after he persuaded them to go on "seeing is believing" tours of hostels and day centres. Most of the 70 managing directors and chief executives who took part promised immediate help. David Fellowes, deputy managing director of Aquascutum, said he would donate suits and other clothing to the Crisis charity for homeless people attending job interviews.

Prince's makeover on homeless

Andrew Robertson, managing director of Abbott Meade Vickers advertising agency, said that his company's contribution would be to buy or build a "halfway house" with accommodation for up to ten. He said the property, to be called The Big House, will help people moving to their own flats to get used to having a home again.

Business Action on Homelessness is a joint venture between the Prince's charity, Business in the Community, and the housing charity Crash, and is chaired by John Studzinski, managing director of the investment bank Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

At a meeting of 50 senior business leaders in St James's Palace, London, yesterday, Mr Studzinski said that relieving homelessness was one of the most tangible ways in which organisations could "play the good shepherd".

Food giant to phase out GM ingredients

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

NESTLÉ, one of Britain's biggest food manufacturers, last night announced plans to phase out genetically modified ingredients, including flours, oils and additives, from its British product range.

The company's move comes a day after Unilever, the food manufacturing giant, announced its intention to remove genetically modified organisms from its products in Britain. Nestlé said that its decision came after a sharp fall in consumer confidence.

Nestlé, which owns British companies including Rowntree, Nescafé, Carnation Milk and Cross & Blackwell, said that it had already reformulated recipes or phased out material from gene-altered crops from many products.

Nestlé

A spokeswoman said they now had only three products labelled as containing genetically modifed ingredients — all Cross & Blackwell sandwiches. These are to have their gene-altered ingredients removed.

She added that the company was now tackling the tougher issue of sourcing soya and soya derivatives, such as oils, flours and lecithin used in chocolate, from conventionally grown crops. The main sources are Brazil and Canada. But campaigners believe that, given the market muscle of Nestlé, Unilever and supermarkets such as Sainsbury, growers in the United States may now look to switch back to traditional soya varities.

"For a transitional period, some Nestlé UK products may continue to contain low levels of highly refined ingredients which, while they may have come from GM crops, have been purified to such an extent that the finished product no longer contains any GM material," the company said.

But it added in a statement that its new policy was to source even these refined ingredients from conventional varieties of soya and maize. "We will endeavour to purchase ingredients from non-GM sources."

Nestlécould not put a date on when all its 250 lines would be sourced from conventional crops, but it is working with suppliers to achieve that as soon as possible.

Lord Melchett, speaking for Greenpeace, said that those who still supported GM crops and foods were driven by "religious zeal" rather than commonsense, adding: "If Tony Blair and Jack Cunningham felt exposed after Unilever's announcement, they must be feeling positively silly now."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Car chase pair face 16 fresh charges

Two men arrested after a high-speed car chase in which shots were fired and passers-by wounded faced 16 new charges of attempted murder when they reappeared before magistrates in Manchester yesterday.

Yakub Olatunde Adetoro, 29, of no fixed address, now faces a total of 23 charges of attempting to murder police and members of the public during the incident, which ended in Rochdale, Greater Manchester, last Friday. Andrew Dennis, 23, of Medlock Road, Failsworth, Oldham, faces a total of 22 attempted murder charges. They were also charged with kidnapping a 27-year-old married woman in Bolton. No bail applications were made.

MP 'entitled to return'

Fiona Jones, the disqualified Labour MP whose conviction for electoral fraud was quashed on appeal, should be allowed to resume her seat in the interests of natural justice and those who voted for her, the High Court was told. "Where an MP . . . is convicted at first instance but succeeds on appeal, their incapacity to sit as an MP is removed," said Philip Sales, for the Attorney-General. The hearing was adjourned until tomorrow.

Call to snub Sinn Fein

The bipartisan consensus on Northern Ireland was further fractured when the Tories called for the establishment of an executive without Sinn Fein (Martin Fletcher writes). The Government rejected a demand by Andrew Mackay, Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, that Sinn Fein should join only when the IRA had disarmed. Mo Mowlam, Northern Ireland Secretary, said that would remove "the one bit of leverage I have".

Health cases checked

The records of 800 patients of an ear, nose and throat consultant are to be reviewed after an inquiry into his competence (Simon de Bruxelles writes). Colleagues had expressed concern about the work of Julian Upton, 62, who retired from Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton, Somerset, last month on health grounds. Consultants called in to review 21 of his cases recommended that the treatment of another 790 patients should be looked at.

Trade war looms over ban on US beef

By Carl Mortished, Charles Bremner and Ben Macintyre

EUROPE is heading for a new trade war with the United States after a committee of veterinary scientists in Brussels decided to ban all imports of US beef into Europe by June 15 unless the meat is proved to be free of artificial hormones.

The ban caused anger among US trade officials who suggested it belied a "tit-for-tat" attitude on the part of the EU. Washington is already threatening action over an existing European ban on imports of hormone-treated beef which the World Trade Organisation has declared illegal.

The decision to ban all beef originating from the US will affect some £12 million US exports, including £3.8 million of US beef sold to Britain. Tests by European scientists on beef sold as hormone-free revealed that 12 per cent of the samples contained residues of artifical growth hormones, alleged to be carcinogens.

The US rejects the claims of health risk and has published a list of $900 million worth of European exports, including Rocquefort, foie gras and motorcycles, which will be liable to 100 per cent duties if Brussels fails to lift its ban by May 13.

Franz Fischler, the Farm Commissioner, said Europe was acting to protect consumer health and was ready to work with US authorities to resolve the problem. However, Britain voted against the move when it was initiated yesterday by the EU's standing veterinary committee.

A British spokeswoman said: "We consider the EU move to be disproportionate. There is clearly a problem with US control measures and we expect them to be addressed as soon as possible."

Tycoon 'hired killer in custody fight'

Court told hitman was paid £20,000 to murder wife, reports **Richard Duce**

A MILLIONAIRE paid a hitman £20,000 to murder his former partner after she won custody of their two children, a court was told yesterday.

Derek Goldsmith, who made a fortune from his Aqualisa shower company, was said to have embarked on a "calculated and wicked" plot to have Diana Goldsmith killed because he wanted care of their son and daughter. The 44-year-old woman — she took his name although they never married — had been abducted from her home by two men in January 1995 and murdered soon afterwards. Her body was not found for two years, when it was discovered buried in the back garden of a house in Bromley, southeast London.

Andrew Patience, QC, for the prosecution, told Maidstone Crown Court that Mr Goldsmith, 62, refused to accept the ruling by a High Court judge that custody of his son, aged seven, and 12-year-old daughter should remain with their mother when the couple separated after 12 years. "He never came to terms with it. Derek Goldsmith's determination to have these children under his care and control has led him ultimately to the dock where he now stands trial."

Mr Patience said: "The defendant badly wanted the care and control of his children. That desire was thwarted by the decision of the High Court which he could not accept. It is for that reason he entered into a calculated and wicked plan to get the children back, although it meant they would be deprived of their mother for ever."

He said the prosecution did not claim that Mr Goldsmith had killed Diana Goldsmith himself. "He was careful to keep his distance. Rather we say that by giving final instructions . . . he counselled and procured her death."

Mr Patience said the murder plot took shape after Mr Goldsmith confided in Michael Fitzpatrick, his son-in-law by a previous marriage, who he had helped to set up in a scrap metal business in South London. "He spoke of Diana being an unfit mother and how he would get his children back some day. It was like an obsession with him," Mr Patience said.

Their friendship had taken a darker and "sinister" twist when Mr Goldsmith had asked Fitzpatrick if he knew of "anyone who could get rid of Diana, that is to say kill her".

Fitzpatrick, who has admitted conspiracy to murder, is a key prosecution witness. It was he who put Mr Goldsmith in touch with the hitman, Ian Colligan. Mr Patience said that under instructions from Mr Goldsmith, Colligan and Fitzpatrick burgled Mrs Goldsmith's home in Sevenoaks, Kent, to copy a set of her keys. The plan had been to return later and lie in wait for her.

Colligan had reported back to Fitzpatrick that Mr Goldsmith had handed him £20,000 at a Little Chef on the A21 road to Hastings. But by now, Mr Patience said, Fitzpatrick had got cold feet and urged Colligan "not to do the job and keep the money".

Instead, Colligan had recruited his friend Michael Danaher with the offer of £1,500, and the two men had let themselves in to Mrs Goldsmith's house. She had returned home having dropped off her son at his school.

Mr Patience told the jury: "Colligan overpowered her. She was assured no harm would come to her and she was given a cup of coffee and a cigarette to calm her down. Her hands were secured with plastic ties." Mrs Goldsmith had then been driven away in her own Volvo car, which had later been found abandoned at the Lakeside Shopping Centre in Essex. She was never seen alive again.

Mr Patience said that Colligan then told Fitzpatrick that he would not dispose of the body unless he was paid a further £20,000 by Mr Goldsmith. The millionaire had handed over a further £6,000. In the meantime, Fitzpatrick had asked a friend if he could bury 50 kilos of cannabis in his back garden. While the friend was out, Fitzpatrick had buried the body.

Mr Patience said that days before he was arrested last year, Mr Goldsmith, who by now had custody of his children, had ordered a book near his home in Edenbridge, Kent, entitled *When Father Kills Mother — guiding children through truama and grief*.

Danaher admitted a kidnapping charge in June 1996 and was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court. Colligan committed suicide while on remand in prison. Mr Goldsmith denies conspiring to murder his wife.

The trial continues.





The prosecution claims that Diana Goldsmith was kidnapped from her house in Sevenoaks, below, on the orders of her partner Derek Goldsmith, right, who lived in Edenbridge, above, and was put in touch with the hitman by Michael Fitzpatrick, below



Marines rejected school massacre mastermind

Police question four friends of killers, reports **Giles Whittell**

ERIC HARRIS, who masterminded the school shooting in Colorado in which 15 people died last week, was taking medication for a psychiatric condition and had been rejected by the US Marines five days before.

According to military sources, Harris had done well in an early interview for the Marines but had been turned down on medical grounds. "The system worked," a Marine Corps spokesman said. But the young man it weeded out then went on a rampage, the impact of which is still being felt more than a week later. As crowds packed two more funerals for victims of Harris and his partner, Dylan Klebold, police confirmed that three more young men and a woman could still become suspects.

The men being questioned, all with links to the so-called Trenchcoat Mafia, have been named as Matthew Christianson, Matt Akard and Jim Branetti. They were spotted near the school wearing combat fatigues and black shirts during the shootings, taken into custody and released.

One told the *Rocky Mountain News* that they had been watching because they were "just three punks with a lot of curiosity". Police suspect they may have known about the massacre in advance because, as Sheriff John Stone noted on Tuesday: "They said they heard it on the radio . . . but it wasn't on the radio then."

The woman helping detectives, 18-year-old Robyn Anderson, was Klebold's girlfriend. She went to the school prom with him three days before the killings and is known to have bought the two shotguns used by him and Harris. Questioned and released on Tuesday, she was still co-operating with police yesterday.



Anderson: bought two guns used in the killings

A national debate on who to blame for the carnage may find the answer in the courts. Geoffrey Feiger, a nationally-known defence lawyer who made his name representing Dr Jack Kervorkian, the advocate of assisted suicide, has been approached twice by the family of the sole black victim, Isaiah Shoels. His father is considering a lawsuit because police and school officicals allegedly ignored repeated warnings about threats of violence from Harris and Klebold, and on the ground that their parents ignored clear signs of an arms build-up in their own homes.

"How would they not know they had bomb factories in their houses?" Michael Schwartz, Mr Fieger's law partner, asked as police raised the number of bombs found at the school to 51.

New information released on Tuesday hinted for the first time that Harris and Klebold may have considered suicide only as a last resort. Harris's diary contained mention of escaping to Mexico, Sheriff Stone said. Detectives also believe the gunmen made three attempts to flee the building before shooting themselves.

As the investigation continued, President Clinton made an impassioned plea for new gun control measures. He asked "everybody who is waiting for the next deer season in my home state to think about this in terms of what our reasonable obligations to the larger community of America are".

The Duchess of York joined mourners in Littleton, saying that it reminded her of Kensington Palace after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Patched-up Verve split again

By Alex O'Connell

THE Verve, the rock group that Liam Gallagher of Oasis called "the best band in world — apart from us", announced yesterday that they had split after months of speculation about their future.

The band, which slimmed down from five to a quartet when the guitarist Nick McCabe left, said it was a mutual decision. Richard Ashcroft, the singer, said: "The decision to split the band did not come without a great deal of distress to me personally.

"I have always given everything to the band and would have continued to do so if circumstances had not made it impossible."

The working-class boys from Wigan notched up hits including *Bitter Sweet Symphony* and their first No 1, *The Drugs Don't Work*.



The five members of The Verve before they parted company

This is not the first time the band has split. In 1995 McCabe and Ashcroft fell out over the singer's hedonistic lifestyle and McCabe did not speak to any of The Verve for 18 months. Ashcroft, known as "Mad Richard" at the time, because of his appetite for drugs, reportedly begged McCabe to come back. Later he wrote *The Drugs Don't Work* about the circumstances surrounding the split. But although McCabe was reported to have patched up differences with the group, he did not perform or record with them again.

In January Ashcroft held a party at his mansion in Gloucestershire without inviting the other band members. The previous month Ashcroft and McCabe had been snubbed when they found out through friends about the wedding of the guitarist Simon Tong.

Recently it emerged that Ashcroft had been recording in a South London studio, followed by rumours of a solo project.

Office may spark new battle of Newbury

Environmentalists threaten a siege over approval for Vodafone centre, writes Helen Johnstone

A TOWN which saw one of the fiercest environmental battles of recent years was yesterday facing another upheaval after Vodafone gained approval to build its world headquarters on a green site.

Campaigners who failed to prevent Newbury getting its controversial bypass have said they will return to the fray against the telecommunications giant.

They denounced Vodafone after the company threatened to relocate its 3,500-strong workforce if the plan was rejected. In the end, West Berkshire Council rejected advice from planning officers that the headquarters would generate demand for thousands more houses and approved the plans early yesterday after a 6½-hour debate.

Vodafone's £60 million headquarters will cover 30 acres north of the town centre. Within five years it will employ staff from 36 of the 57 buildings which the company currently uses across the Berkshire market town.

Friends of the Earth accused the company of holding a gun to the council's head. Adrian Foster-Fletcher, a spokesman, said: "For a company that makes £3 million per day, they have behaved like an Arthur Daley backstreet garage. The council will be powerless to stop 3,000 houses being dumped in the area."

However, as with the controversial bypass, the people of Newbury seem largely in favour of Vodafone's scheme. An independent survey showed that of 1,559 people asked, only 96 were against.

The company, which has donated hundreds of thousands of pounds to local charities since moving to Newbury in 1983, was sensitive to the charge it might be buying votes. At the eleventh hour, it rejected a council demand that it donate £5 million to a housing association.

The company said yesterday: "Vodafone saw it as buying the application. The council would have had the problem anyway. We confirmed in a letter early yesterday that if the condition remained we would pull out."

The council voted by 23 to 22, with one abstention, to drop the condition. Councillors then went on to vote by 25 to 18 in favour of the headquarters, along with around 2,000 parking spaces on former agricultural land.

Jim Sherry, the council's head of planning and transport strategy, gave a warning that more green sites were now under threat. "We have very few brownfield sites, so most of the new houses will have to go on greenfield sites."

Planners had said that up 3,900 new jobs could be created. Their report recommending refusal had said that this would result in a significant increase in commuting to the town and further pressure on housing.

Friends of the Earth, which argued that Vodafone could move 20 miles down the M4 to Reading, where houses were already available and a bus service planned, is calling for a public inquiry.

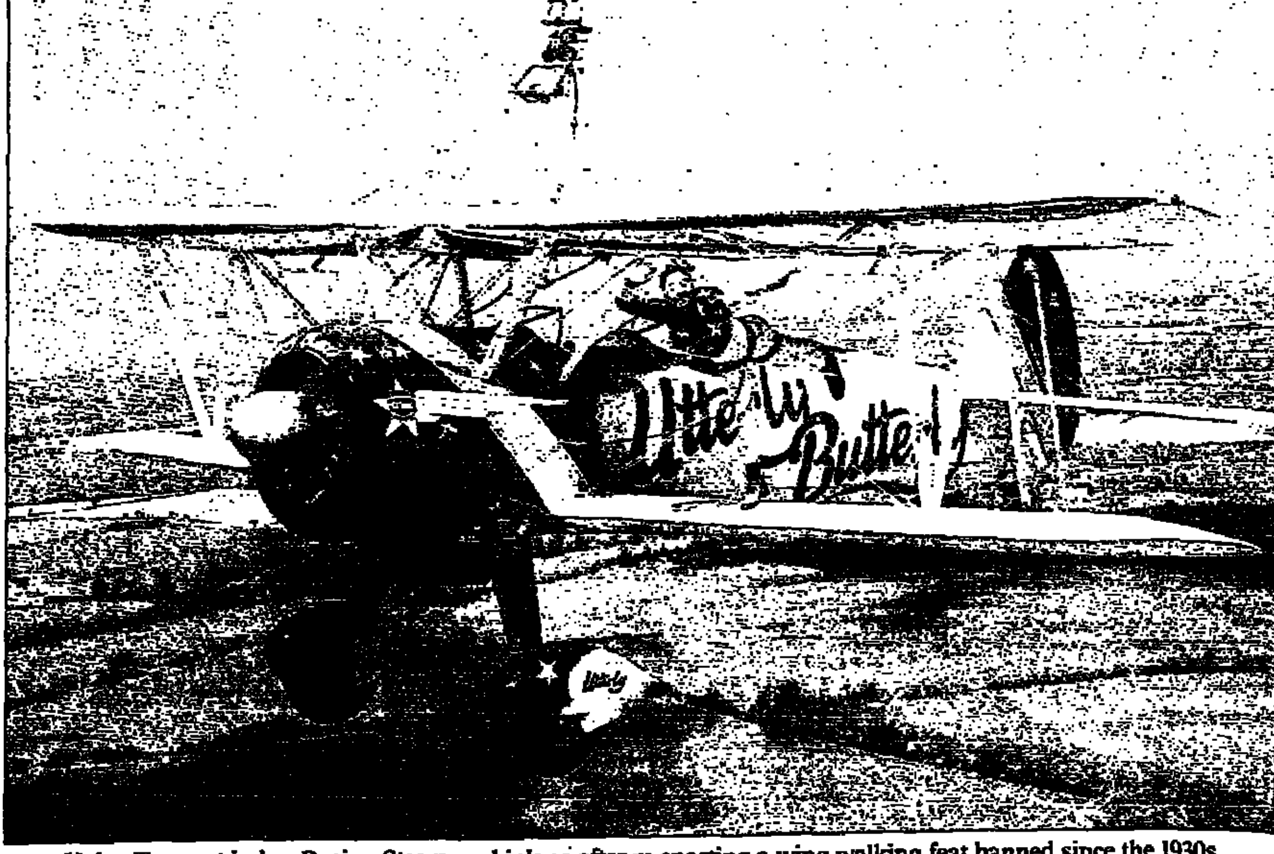
Mr. Foster-Fletcher said: "Planning officers and the planning committee recommended refusal. About 300 people who demonstrated last week in favour of the proposals were Vodafone employees. Pressure must be put on the council to take a proper view of this application."

Mike Caldwell, the Vodafone spokesman, said that staying in Newbury would prevent workers clocking up 30 million extra road miles a year. "If we had moved to Reading, a vast majority of our staff would have stayed living in the Newbury area and used their cars to drive to work." Residents yesterday expressed delight. "Vodafone signs are already everywhere you look, so it will be good to see the bulk of them moving out of the town," said Frank Dodwell, a retired publisher.

Sue Bruce, a secretary, said: "The move will be gradual, over three to five years."

VODAFONE OFFICES IN NEWBURY

The Old Showground (Vodafone's new site)
A4 Western Avenue
Turnpike Road
A4 London Rd
Kennet and Avon Canal
Hambridge Lane
Newbury Race Course
M4
Newbury
A34
One mile


Helen Tempest in her Boeing Stearman biplane after re-enacting a wing-walking feat banned since the 1930s

Walker with a wing and a prayer

By Simon de Bruxelles

IT MIGHT play havoc with a girl's hairdo, but that was the least of Helen Tempest's worries yesterday as she performed a wing-walking stunt so dangerous it has been banned since the 1930s.

As her Boeing Stearman biplane roared 100ft above a Gloucestershire airfield, the 33-year-old professional daredevil climbed out of the cockpit and on to the lower wing. Battered by the 100mph slipstream, she stepped gingerly from spar to spar, knowing that one false step and her foot would go straight through the thin fabric skin. If that happened, not even the safety harness she wears would have been able to stop her or the 50-year-old plane plummeting to the ground.


The last legal wing-walk, in 1930s

After spending ten minutes walking to the middle of the 33ft-long wing and back again, she said: "That was truly amazing. It made me feel like *Superwoman*. When you step out you are overwhelmed by the force of the air behind the propeller. You can barely breathe." She added that it was "incredible fun".

Miss Tempest, who has been wing-walking since the age of 15, is a member of the Utterly Butterly Barnstormers, who perform at airshows across Europe and are the first team to be granted permission to perform the stunt since wing-walking was banned by the Civil Aviation Authority in 1933 because of the large number of fatalities.

Wing-walking began in the 1920s when World War One pilots tried to find ways of earning a living after returning to civilian life.

Partridge: obnoxious but fictional, says the BBC

Warning: this man is no role model

By Carol Midgley
Media Correspondent

THE BBC was forced to spell out yesterday that Alan Partridge, the obnoxious, offensive, homophobic, sexist fictional chat show host, was not a suitable role model for viewers.

Executives published a lengthy explanation distancing themselves from the behaviour of the star of the BBC2 comedy series *I'm Alan Partridge* after being reprimanded by broadcasting watchdogs.

The Broadcasting Standards Commission upheld complaints that a repeat episode of the show, starring the comedian Steve Coogan as a fading chat-show host, was offensive to the disabled.

Partridge mocked a character who had undergone an operation to remove his vocal cords and spoke using an electronic gadget. He asked the man why he spoke so strangely and told him he sounded "like the young girl in *The Exorcist*".

After being told by the commission that humour at the expense of someone who had undergone a laryngectomy exceeded acceptable boundaries, the BBC said that it had had no intention to ridicule sufferers.

"The central character in the series was a fading media star whose most distinctive feature was his crass insensitivity," it said in its submission to the commission. "He unashamedly alienated or offended most of the people he met, while remaining unaware that he was the object of the humour rather than those on the receiving end of his tasteless jokes."

The spokesman explained that the behaviour of Partridge — who is reduced in his latest series to presenting the 4.30am show on Radio Norwich and living in a Travel Tavern — had put his career and personal life on a "remorseless slide".

The BBC added that he was "clearly not intended to be a role model" and "his boorish and prejudiced behaviour should be seen in that light".

Aid for disabled on the menu

By Alexandra Frean, Social Affairs Correspondent

WAITERS will be required to read out menus to people with visual impairments under government guidelines issued this week.

Shopkeepers will have to open their door for customers who cannot easily manage it themselves, and owners of small shops who cannot afford to build a ramp or widen doorways will be required to serve customers who use wheelchairs on the pavement.

The advice is part of the Disability Discrimination Act, which comes into force on October 1. It is designed to guarantee disabled people the right of access to all goods and services on the high street.

The guidance is designed to placate owners of small businesses who are concerned that the new legislation will involve building alterations to their premises and other costly adjustments to the way they work. Instead of building new display units that are accessible to wheelchair users or people with restricted movement, storekeepers will be advised to retrieve items from inaccessible shelves.

Businesses that cannot afford to install an induction loop or hire a sign language interpreter will be required to write down information for people who have hearing impairments.

Similarly, solicitors and providers of other professional services will be able to produce documents on tape or in large print for clients with visual impairments, instead of having to have them printed in Braille.

Announcing the regulations in the Commons, Margaret Hodge, minister for disabled people, said she hoped the new legislation would lead to "a high street revolution" in the way that services are delivered.

‘Who would want to kill my gentle Jill?’

Fiancé urges those with suspicions to tell police, writes **Michael Harvey**

THE fiancé of the murdered television presenter Jill Dando spoke yesterday of his grief and incomprehension at her death. Alan Farthing said: "I cannot understand why they would want to kill someone as gentle, kind and well-meaning and as perfect a person as Jill."

Mr Farthing, 35, a consultant gynaecologist at a West London hospital, was due to marry Miss Dando in September. They had been seeing each other since meeting on a blind date last year.

In an emotional interview organised by the police he said: "I am coping in the same way as anybody else would cope in these circumstances. I am devastated. Everybody around me is devastated, everybody is trying to offer as much support as they possibly can."

Mr Farthing, who was told of his fiancée's death while at work at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, added: "I cannot believe what has happened. I cannot understand what has happened. I cannot think for one moment what could go through someone's mind when they do such a thing to such a beautiful, caring and well-meaning person such as Jill."



Jill Dando and Alan Farthing together last Christmas

His thoughts were focused on finding her killer: "Somebody has planned this . . . and somebody around that person will have noticed a change in behaviour. I would appeal to anyone who is suspicious not to think about it, but to just go ahead and give the police the information they have. If the information is not relevant, then let the police officers decide that."

Mr Farthing was speaking at Kensington police station, where the murder investigation is being co-ordinated. He said that Miss Dando, 37, had not spoken of any serious fears about her celebrity status or her role presenting *Crimewatch UK*. He added: "I have spent hours, as has everybody who knows Jill, desperately racking the backs of our minds to see if we can come up with a particular reason. It is not something that was a topic of conversation. She never really felt that there was any particular danger to her as far as I'm aware."

He said that she had contacted *Crimewatch* before she joined to see if anyone had been threatened, but was reassured. "It did not worry us. More worrying were the occasions when she had to go in to the BBC car park at 1am to drive herself home."

Mr Farthing said that he could see himself going back to work, but for the moment he was too busy helping the police. "My first emotions now are that, whatever happens and whatever arrests are made, it does not bring back Jill and that is desperately sad.

"Nevertheless, it helps me and Jill's family and it helps Jill's friends and colleagues to feel that we are doing everything we can to try and apprehend whoever is responsible."

Mr Farthing, his voice breaking, said that he had last spoken to Miss Dando at 7.25am on Monday when she left his house in Chiswick. Detectives are still talking to family and friends, seeking clues.

Mr Farthing first heard that there was something wrong when he had a pager message from her agent, who was trying to find out if rumours of her death were true. He had tried to contact police stations when a senior police officer whom he knew arrived to give him the news.

Talk of a public memorial was premature but he and Miss Dando's family wanted to thank all those who had expressed their condolences.



ANTHONY UPTON

Detective Chief Inspector Hamish Campbell at the Dando murder scene yesterday

Police grapple with mystery of gunman's motive

KOSOVO CONNECTION

Theory: Miss Dando was the victim of a Serb killer acting in revenge for the bombing last week of the Serbian television station in Belgrade.

Evidence: Last week she presented a television charity appeal for the victims of the Kosovo conflict. Two anonymous callers to the BBC and one to ITN have claimed that there is a Balkan link to the murder. Several Serb television workers were killed in the Nato bombing, which the British Government justified as an attack on "the ministry of lies in Milosevic's one-medium state". The murder of such a prominent BBC employee might be seen by a Serb as apt revenge.

Likelihood: Far-fetched theory but not ruled out by the police.

PERSONAL REVENGE

Theory: She was killed by someone who knew her either in her personal or professional life.

Evidence: An admirer could have become jealous after learning of her engagement to Alan Farthing, 35, a gynaecologist. Police are questioning all those close to her, including Dr Farthing. They have searched his townhouse in Chiswick, West London. They have also spoken to her former boyfriend, Simon Bassil, 33, a former game park warden who is now a computer analyst in Hampshire. She met him in January 1997 when she went was filming in South Africa. Women are more often killed by people known to them but police emphasise that neither Dr Farthing nor any former boyfriend is a suspect.

Likelihood: Possible and being investigated.

OBSESSED FAN

Theory: She was killed by a stalker who was infatuated with her.

Evidence: Miss Dando had expressed concern about her safety but not recently. As with all women television celebrities she attracted her fair share of fans and fanmail. Several websites were devoted to her. Last year she was bothered by an obsessive fan who was warned off by the BBC. Someone who believed himself to be in love with her could have been pushed over the edge by the news of her forthcoming marriage.

Likelihood: Possible and police are treating it seriously But people with obsessions very rarely kill the object of their infatuation. The shooting was also too clinical to suggest that the killer was an emotionally tortured fan.

CRIMEWATCH GRUDGE

Theory: A criminal brought to justice by the BBC1 programme Crimewatch sought revenge by hiring a professional hitman.

Evidence: Miss Dando co-presented the programme for four years. In that time it featured nearly 500 crimes and about a third were solved. Police are examining Crimewatch files to see which criminals have recently been released from jail. Few of the offences featured in the programme involved the sort of gangland crime likely to provoke a revenge killing. Nick Ross, her co-presenter, does not believe there is a Crimewatch connection.

Likelihood: Police consider it very unlikely. A professional killer would not have worked without gloves and a well-thought out escape route.

Delay in issuing picture holds up the hunt

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

THE hunt for Jill Dando's killer is making slow progress, hit by delays in issuing key pictures of the main suspect.

Three days after the murder senior detectives have also lost the advantage of the first 24 hours, called the "golden hours" by police because the memories of witnesses are at their sharpest.

Scotland Yard commanders believe the case is "very solvable", because of the number of witnesses, unless Miss Dando was the victim of a Serbian revenge attack. But a number of top leads, identified as "fast-track inquiries", carried out in the first day of investigation have failed to yield results.

These would include obvious tasks such as searches of the area, anyone immediately identified as having a motive and tip-offs of good suspects.

Yesterday the Yard said detectives were still trying to find a witness who had a good view of a man seen loitering near Miss Dando's home and running away after the shooting. At least five men and two women witnesses have come forward and detectives are examining which one could provide the E-Fit. One of the problems is that witnesses may have only caught a side or back view of the suspect who was aged between 30 and 40, about 5ft 10in or 5ft 11in tall, well dressed in a suit or dark jacket and trousers, and carrying a mobile telephone.

The Dando murder team, led by Detective Chief Inspector Hamish Campbell, know that they must get the best picture they can and time is not on their side. If the detectives rush out a poor picture, they face the risk that possible witnesses will eliminate suspects because they do not match it. Yesterday a specialist search team often used after terrorist attacks was in Gowan Avenue and nearby streets looking for the murder weapon.



JUSTICE DENIED

Kicked, beaten and burned by a man who could kill her, this victim needs to see a lawyer fast.

But under the Access to Justice Bill, there may be no legal aid lawyers left in her area when she makes her claim. By which time it may be too late for her to find one further afield.

So what's the point of having rights, if basic access to justice is denied?

This Bill will hit the poorest and most vulnerable – the very people who need legal aid.

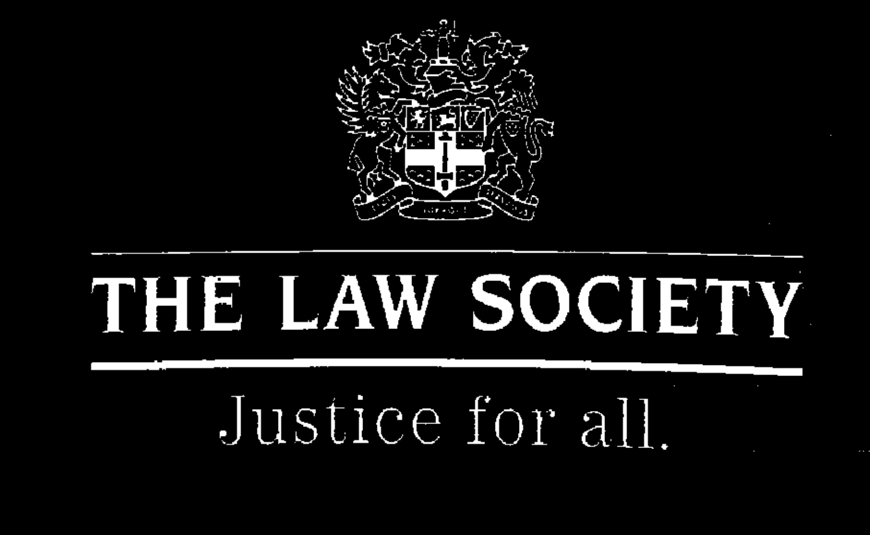
To protect their right to justice, ask your MP to lobby for changes to the Access to Justice Bill now. Before it's too late.



Refuge, a national lifeline for women and children experiencing domestic violence, shares these concerns about the impact of the Bill.

Her partner uses her as his personal punchbag.

Now the Government is about to deliver another wounding blow.



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Poet of the Dome will pen ode to new era

BY MARK HENDERSON

POETRY was assured of its place in the Millennium Dome yesterday when Simon Armitage was appointed as poet-in-residence.

Armitage, a Yorkshireman and one of Britain's foremost young poets, will spend six months based at Greenwich composing a 1,000-line ode to Britain's celebrations. He will be paid £5,000.

He will perform the completed work in the Dome and at venues across the country. He is also likely to read extracts at the New Year's Eve celebrations, though a full reading would probably be considered too long. "I'm a slow reader and a thousand lines would take me about an hour," Armitage said. But he added: "If people are sober and patient enough to sit through that on millennium night, I'll do it."

The poem, which he promises will rhyme, will be published as a book. Extracts will feature around the Dome, possibly in zones for which they are appropriate.

Composing a poem to mark an event of such importance would usually be a job for the Poet Laureate, a position that remains vacant since the death last year of Ted Hughes. Armitage is considered a strong option for the post, though not a frontrunner, and the commission is certain to boost his candidacy.

Armitage, 35 and a former probation officer, was shortlisted for the Whitbread Prize for his first collection of poems, *Zoom!* and is a winner of the Forward Prize for poetry. He writes on modern and accessible subjects — such as the retirement of Eric Cantona — and is a regular radio broadcaster.

His appointment will be seen as a gesture towards the North, where hostility towards the perceived London focus of the Dome is strong. He still lives in his home town of Huddersfield and will travel the nation for inspiration.

Yesterday, visiting the Dome for the first time, he said: "I want to capture the mood of the the country and what people make of the millennium. I'm not clear yet where it's going to take me — that's part of the excitement."

His style and appeal to the young are thought to have influenced his appointment, which is being funded by the Poetry Society's Poetry Places lottery scheme. Schoolchildren recently voted him their second favourite for Poet Laureate, after Seamus Heaney.

Yesterday the New Millennium Experience Company announced three new sponsorship deals — with Typhoo, Kodak and Mars — bringing the total to £144 million, just short of the £150 million target. It also said that 210,000 free tickets to the Dome would be offered to Greenwich residents.

LINKS

www.dome2000.co.uk Millennium Dome home page
www.poetrysoc.com Poetry Society home page



Armitage: will capture mood of the nation



"Blade of light": the bridge is expected to carry four million people a year between St Paul's and the new Tate Gallery



On site yesterday: Sir Norman Foster and John Prescott

Thames footbridge will be a lifesaver

BY MARK HENDERSON

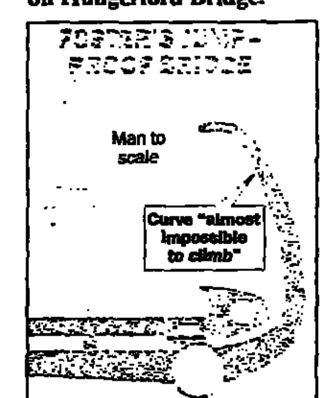
LONDON'S first new bridge across the Thames for more than a century is to have an innovative anti-suicide design. Curving balustrades will make it almost impossible for anyone to attempt to leap to their death.

Construction began yesterday on the £16 million Millennium Bridge, which received a £7 million lottery grant. The architect Sir Norman Foster, who designed the footbridge with the sculptor Sir Anthony Caro and the engineer Professor Chris Wise, said: "The contoured shape of the handrail makes it almost impossible to climb."

The low-level suspension bridge, which will link St Paul's Cathedral and the Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside, will be supported by stainless-steel balustrades that will curve away from the pedestrians. The balustrades' 5ft height and curve mean that only the most determined would be able to climb over. The four million people a year expected to use the bridge will not, however, have their views of the riverside disturbed by high safety fences.

When it opens next April it will be London's first footbridge since Roman times and the first new bridge in Central London since Tower Bridge in 1894. At night it will be lit up to span the Thames with a "blade of light".

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, officially launched construction yesterday. A second footbridge is being built with Millennium Commission funding upriver, beside the railway track on Hungerford Bridge.



Scientists train bees to detect landmines

BY NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

HONEY bees are being trained by scientists to detect landmines in the hope that they can help clear vast areas where the deadly weapons have been buried and forgotten.

The work hinges on the ability of the bees to pick up dust and airborne chemicals on their bodies. Trace levels of TNT, the explosive commonly used in landmines, can be found in the air around the buried weapons. It may also be absorbed from the soil into the pollen of flowering plants and picked up by the bees as they forage for nectar. The bees can then be screened for explosive chemicals on their return to the hive.

Jerry Bromenshenk, a bee expert at the University of Montana at Missoula and one of the team, said: "Bees are like flying dust mops. Wherever they go, they pick up dust, airborne chemicals and other samples on their fuzzy, statically charged bodies."

The scientists are also training bees to sniff out TNT chemicals by teaching them to link the smell of explosives with the smell of sugary substances. New bee colonies are given feeders with sugary water tainted with a marker chemical. The feeders have then been moved further away from the hive and eventually removed altogether.

Dr Bromenshenk said the bees were found foraging in areas where the marker chemical had been put down before returning to the hive.

Susan Bender, of the Sandia National Laboratory in Albuquerque, New Mexico, said: "The beauty of this approach is that bees are indigenous to nearly every climate on earth and there are beekeepers everywhere. You won't need a million-dollar piece of equipment and extensive training. The countries where landmines are a problem typically don't have those kinds of resources."

The Red Cross estimates that between 80 million and 120 million landmines are buried across the world, notably in Angola and Cambodia. An average of 60 people are maimed or killed by them every day.

Researchers at the Natural Resources Institute — part of the University of Greenwich — in Malvern, Worcestershire, have developed tiny antennae to attach to bees so that they can be tracked by radar.

Alan Smith, of the institute's radar entymology group, said: "You can tell the range and direction of a bee every three seconds."

LINKS

www.demine.org Wilson Institute for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance
www.minwara.org The Mine Warfare Association

MPs demand revenge of the school swot

Government accused of neglecting most able pupils, reports John O'Leary

THOUSANDS of Britain's brightest children are being let down by their schools and ostracised by their classmates as "swots and boffins", according to MPs yesterday.

Successive governments have neglected the most able pupils in their efforts to raise standards in schools, according to the House of Commons *Select Committee on Education*. Even the literacy hour, introduced in primary schools this year, was not sufficiently flexible to cater for the clever.

The cross-party group called for a national strategy to enhance the potential of bright pupils. Among the suggestions were for Nobel Prize winners to teach top sixth-formers via the Internet. Malcolm Wicks, the committee's chairman, said: "It would be ridiculous if the undiscovered Einstein or the undiscovered Mozart just had to plod through the A-level curriculum."

The six-month inquiry concluded that too many schools were unable or unwilling to cater to their brightest pupils. Some experts believed that up to 40 per cent of children should be considered "highly able" in one or more subject.

Mr Wicks said: "As a nation, over the past 20 years we have focused on overall standards and, quite properly, been concerned about children who are doing less well. That means there is a danger that Britain's brightest children sometimes get a raw deal. We must ensure that good minds, a precious asset, are encouraged and not neglected."

The MPs' report called for named individuals to be responsible for the brightest children in each school and local authority. But it rejected any single blueprint for teaching the most able, declaring that some would thrive in selective schools, while others would do better in comprehensives.

The committee said schools should be able to provide the stimulation that the most able children needed. Without suitable programmes, some would become frustrated and even disruptive.

Better links between schools and universities were one key to improved provision for children who could easily do A-levels. Academics could set and mark dissertations to stretch teenagers at school.

Among other recommendations were better training for teachers to recognise and teach children of high ability, and more flexibility in initiatives such as the National Literacy Strategy to avoid boring the brightest children.

But the report noted that first there must be a change in attitude regarding the education of bright children. One group that supports gifted children told the committee that it was not "cool" to be bright in many schools. Able children were dismissed as "swots".

Mr Wicks said bright children were sometimes bullied and ostracised. "Maybe this is something to do with a society in which intellectual figures are derided."

But the report insists that schools should remember that highly able children were still in their youth. They should be allowed to enjoy their childhood and not be treated as "brains on legs".



Students of self-hypnosis: from left, Matthew Chapman, Kirsty McGreeny, Lyndsey Lowe and Daniella Jones

Hypnosis beats exam stress

By Russell Jenkins

THE headmaster of a comprehensive school in Cheshire turned to a hypnotherapist for help when a group of GCSE pupils complained of examination stress. The students, aged 15 and 16, said that a paralysing anxiety left them unable to revise.

Graham Nelmes, head of the 1,230-pupil Priestnall School, in Heaton Mersey, near Stockport, invited Anne Jakubowska, 50, a qualified hypnotherapist, to the school to hypnotise them.

She conducted three one-hour sessions with the group of two boys and five girls, using her soothing voice and the power of imagination to encourage them to unburden themselves and learn to relax.

Mrs Jakubowska hopes to be invited back to the school and that the sessions might become an annual feature in the run-up to examinations. She said that the kind of hypnotherapy she specialised in bore little resemblance to the theatricality of stage hypnotists.

"Hypnotherapy has nothing magical about it," she said. "We do not dangle anything and we don't put anybody under. They just allow themselves to become pleasantly relaxed.

"We had three sessions where we worked with the power of positive suggestion, concentrating on improving their study skills and how to help them control their anxieties."

Each pupil was given a 20-minute tape recording to switch on whenever they felt under stress.

The school turned to Mrs Jakubowska because she was a former member of the parent-teacher association. She said that the improving powers of self-hypnosis had helped her two sons, both former pupils, in their studies, one of them becoming head boy.

Dr Nelmes said he was not aware of any other school using the services of a trained hypnotherapist.

He said: "We have a number of ways of preparing students for exams and this is just one more. The students have found it quite useful as a way of taking their minds off the pressures involved."

Maths pupils are worse than feared

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

PRIMARY schools appear unlikely to hit ambitious targets for mathematics after government advisers admitted that gaps in 11-year-olds' knowledge is greater than ministers thought.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, attributed a 3 per cent drop in national test results last summer to the introduction of mental arithmetic tests. A subsequent analysis by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has shown that they were responsible for only about a third of the decline.

Nick Tate, the QCA chief executive, said ministers and officials had assumed that the unexpected dip, the first in five years of testing, was due to schools' inexperience in preparing children for mental arithmetic questions. "It was a *perfectly reasonable assumption* to make that this was the major fator. It was a contributory factor, but not the most significant one."

The authority's evaluation of the tests showed a more general decline in performance at a time when a 4 per cent improvement was needed to *maintain progress towards* the Government's target. Mr Blunkett has staked his reputation on 75 per cent of 11-year-olds reaching the expected level for their age by 2001, but last year only 59 per cent did so.

Coming less than a week before the start of this year's tests, the disclosure underlines the precarious state of the Government's standards agenda. However, Mr Tate said: "It would be disastrous for anyone in the education system to assume that we cannot do better than we are currently doing. We have to assume that there is potential for continuous *improvement*. We don't know what the results are going to be like this year, but we hope they are going to improve."

Martin Ripley, the QCA's principal manager for test development and administration, acknowledged that test results inevitably tended to "plateau" after *initial* improvement. But he said that pre-testing suggested that children were better prepared in mental arithmetic this year and that government guidelines on the teaching of numeracy should start to have an effect.

SUM TOTALS

There were 20 questions in the 30-minute mental arithmetic test, which will be similar this year. Pupils were asked to divide nine by three and add seven, and to calculate half of 3.6. Another question asked: "Alex paid for a tape with a £5 note and received £1.25 change. How much did the tape cost?"

Sailor vanishes from lost yacht

By Paul Wikinson, North East Correspondent

A BOAT belonging to a solo yachtsman who set off on a trip of about 15 miles has been found drifting, empty, more than 400 miles away.

Peter Bloomer, 51, an experienced amateur sailor, left the Neptune Marina at Ipswich aboard his 33ft boat, *Tropical Spirit*, at lunchtime on Saturday, April 17. He told staff that he planned to sail down the coast to Walton on the Naze, Essex, to explore coastal creeks, staying away overnight.

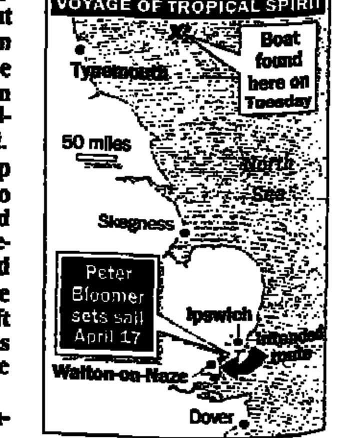
When he had not returned by Monday, April 19, an extensive search of the East Anglian coast was made, but nothing was found. Ports in France, Belgium and The Netherlands were alerted in case Mr Bloomer, had decided to head for the Continent.

His single-masted sloop was not seen again until two days ago, when it was sighted 130 miles northeast of Tynemouth in Northumberland by a Ministry of Agriculture fisheries protection aircraft on a routine patrol. The sails were up but no one was at the helm.

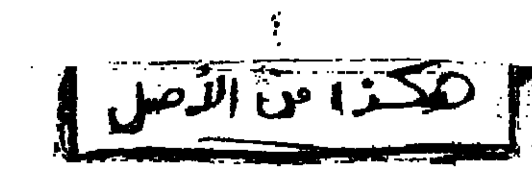
***HMS Leeds Castle*, a fisheries protection vessel, went to the scene and found Mr Bloomer's passport, a diary and his mobile telephone, but no sign of him.**

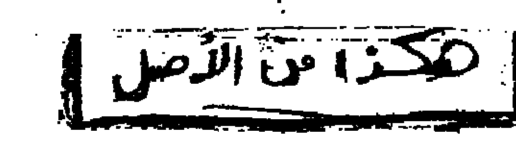
A Coastguard spokesman said yesterday: "There are no obvious clues about what may have happened to him. We may have to assume that he went overboard and has drowned."

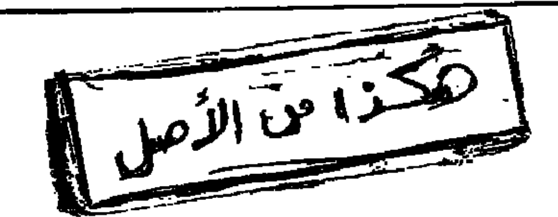
Mr Bloomer, who runs a shipping company, Concept Caribbean, in Felixstowe, Suffolk, is married with two sons, aged 19 and ten.










هكذا من الأصل





Bar puts case against Irvine's legal aid cuts

Lawyers seek guarantees for vulnerable groups without means, writes Frances Gibb

THE Lord Chancellor faced a fresh onslaught yesterday over legal aid cuts when the Bar — his own branch of the legal profession — turned its wrath on him.

The Bar is urging the Government to amend the Access to Justice Bill, which is in its committee stage today, to preserve legal aid for vulnerable groups.

It also wants enshrined in the Bill a fundamental principle, inserted by the Lords after a Government defeat, that access to justice must be provided to people without means, to the disabled and those in deprived areas.

Lord Irvine of Lairg's plans to end legal aid for personal injury cases will affect the old, the young and the disabled, the Bar says. The Lord Chancellor insists that they will be protected by a hardship fund and the £1.6 billion annual legal aid bill will remain intact.

Dan Brennan, QC, Bar Chairman, said yesterday: "The Lord Chancellor says that these are the very people who are protected under his legal aid reforms. If that is the case, why not put it in the Bill?

"At present these people are protected under the legal aid system. Unless their future entitlement to pursue such claims is guaranteed, legal aid should be preserved for them."

Without such a guarantee, he said, the "most vulnerable people in society" would not have state protection.

He also hit back at the Lord Chancellor's comments that lawyers' protests arose from concern about their incomes. "The poverty of this argument is endorsed by its constant repetition," Mr Brennan said. "It is a stereotyped accusation that has become so hackneyed that people do not pay it any attention."

Nobody, he said, accused doctors and nurses of being concerned about their incomes when they complained about inefficiencies and lack of services in the NHS. "Lord Irvine does not say that they are lining their own pockets."

The Bar's attack adds weight to the Law Society, the solicitors' professional body, which this week, backed by a coalition of consumer and other groups, started a £700,000 advertising campaign against the proposals.

The Government proposes to scrap legal aid for personal injury cases, and instead to rely on lawyers taking the cases on a "no win, no fee" basis, supported by insurance to cover the risk of having to pay the other side's legal costs. Lawyers say this will mean a wide swath of difficult but deserving cases which cannot be pursued.

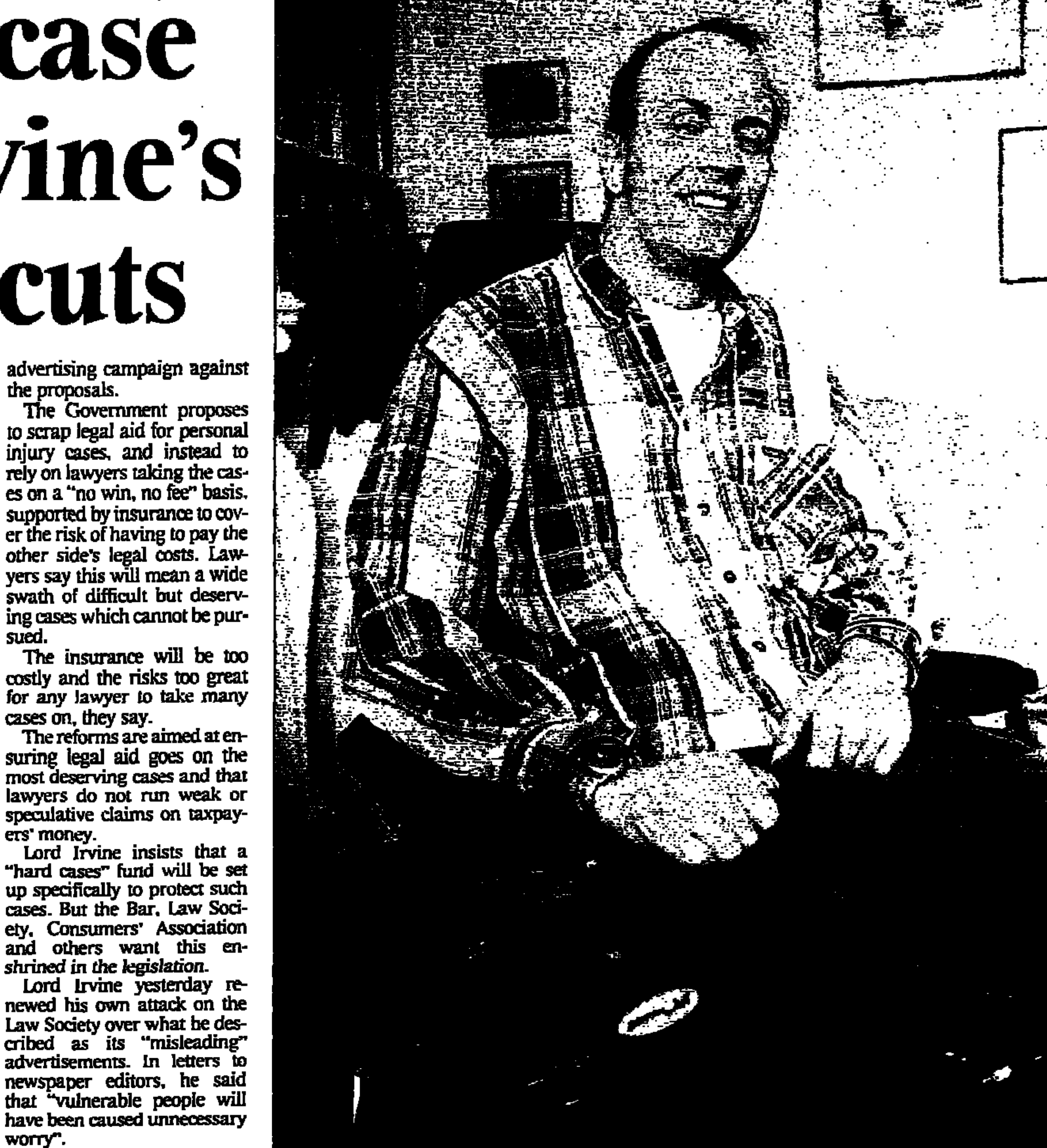
The insurance will be too costly and the risks too great for any lawyer to take many cases on, they say.

The reforms are aimed at ensuring legal aid goes on the most deserving cases and that lawyers do not run weak or speculative claims on taxpayers' money.

Lord Irvine insists that a "hard cases" fund will be set up specifically to protect such cases. But the Bar, Law Society, Consumers' Association and others want this enshrined in the legislation.

Lord Irvine yesterday renewed his own attack on the Law Society over what he described as its "misleading" advertisements. In letters to newspaper editors, he said that "vulnerable people will have been caused unnecessary worry".

Leading article, page 23



PAT HANNAGAN

Legal aid enabled Trevor Jones to win £1 million in damages — and his independence

Cash awards that made life worth living

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

YOUNG, old and disabled people are the three groups that will suffer from the loss of legal aid, the Bar says.

Trevor Jones, 38, is paralysed from the shoulders down after breaking his neck in a skiing accident ten years ago when in the Royal Navy. His case was difficult because of the lack of an obvious defendant: the accident happened when he swerved to avoid tourists cutting across the course.

After investigations, it emerged that his MoD-engaged instructor had ordered him down the course without having a proper view. The MoD was sued and more than £1 million in damages recovered.

His solicitor, John Cahill, said: "The damages have secured him a monthly income for life and given him technological equipment which has radically changed his quality of life." Without legal aid, he added, the case would not have been brought. All costs were recovered.

Mr Jones, who needs 24-hour care, is seeking sponsors for a round-the-world voyage in a wingsail yacht. He said yesterday: "The difference in having the award is enormous. I have a wheelchair which cost £15,000 and a car which cost £40,000. It has given me independence."

Richard Charlton, now 11, needs round-the-clock care. Before he was born his mother was involved in a road accident that injured them both. His parents could not care for him and he is with foster parents. With legal aid, a claim was brought against the other motorist and the settlement in his favour amounted to more than £1 million. That will provide him with care, aids and housing should he outlive his foster parents, now 70 and 64.

His barrister, David Wilby, QC, said that Richard has no voluntary limb, head or spine control. He has poor vision, and has a colostomy and is doubly incontinent. "He can smile and laugh and express concern and annoyance. He clearly loves his foster parents and his environment and he attends a special school."

Mr Wilby said that none of his care would have been possible without legal aid.

Mrs W, from Southend-on-Sea tripped after falling over a milkcrate outside a newsagents, suffering significant injuries. She sued the shopkeeper, but he contested the action. Each had witnesses with differing stories as to how she fell.

Nigel Cooksley, the barrister who handled the case, said: "This was going to be a difficult one to prove because of the conflicting evidence. Mrs W was able to get legal aid and secured a £10,000 settlement on the steps of the court."

No solicitor would have touched the action under a "no win, no fee" agreement and all costs were recovered, he said.

Students take a shine to token effort

By Hannah Betts



CITY Airport shoeshine supremo Stephen Reynolds has earned a place in *The Times* Free Books for Schools pantheon by collecting thousands of tokens for an East London school.

A delegation of ten children from Woolmore Primary School, Tower Hamlets, had a tour of the airport yesterday when they went to collect 2,500 tokens. They also tried their hand at shining shoes.

"We had great fun," said Mr Reynolds. "I've got my eye on a couple of them as budding apprentices. But I made sure to tell them that a morning out of school meant that they'd have to go back and catch up on their reading."

Mr Reynolds announced in *The Times* in February that he was looking for a school to be the beneficiary of his impressive token collection.

Many of the tokens had been plucked from the newspapers of customers while they enjoyed Mr Reynolds' work. Others had been gathered from the many travellers who pass through the airport.

Woolmore Primary is a culturally diverse school where 70 per cent of the children have English as an additional language. Pupils are given every encouragement to enjoy books, from a lunchtime reading scheme with council workers from Tower Hamlets, to dressing up as their favourite literary characters for World Book Day.

Tracy Argent, their head teacher, said: "The key thing isn't just getting children to read now, it is motivating them to carry on reading for the rest of their lives. Events like this help to convince them that reading is exciting."

The school will be restocking its library with its order from the Free Books for Schools scheme in the summer term and Mr Reynolds will be guest of honour.

The final *Times* tokens will be published tomorrow, but they can be redeemed until July 20.

Mr Reynolds lamented the end of the scheme: "It'll be really odd not having to cut out tokens — it's really kept us busy. I don't know what we'll do with ourselves after Friday."

Token, page 26

Embassy linked to sex trade

From Andrew Drummond in Bangkok

A CORRUPT official in the British Embassy in Bangkok has been supplying visas to Thai women who have been recruited by Triad gangs in a trade described as "the closest thing to slavery that Western Europe has to offer", it is claimed in a programme to be broadcast tonight.

The women are brought to massage parlours in Britain under contracts which force them to service up to 700 men without receiving a penny. Many think they are going to be given jobs as waitresses in Thai restaurants.

One such girl told how she was beaten into a semi-coma when she refused.

The investigation by London Weekend Television reporter Lee Sorrell, who was infiltrated into the trafficking groups by *The Times'* correspondent in Bangkok, also showed how British expatriates were more than happy to help the Triad gangs by recruiting girls and acting as "jockeys", bringing them into Britain as their girlfriends.

British-Canadian Glen Mackenzie-Smith, 46, whose cover in Bangkok was as an English language teacher, was a willing fixer for a gang headed in Bangkok by a Chinese Thai called Boon Tam.

London remains the main destination but Glasgow and Edinburgh figure high on all traffickers client lists.

Photographs taken in Britain and ontained by *The Times* show how the gangs take the girls sightseeing and send the photographs home to convince other girls that they will be well treated.

☐ *The Sex Slave Trade, Channel 4, tonight at 9 pm.*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mayor to serve extra 200 hours

The Mayor of Labour-controlled Blaenau Gwent Council in South Wales was ordered to carry out 200 hours of community service for fiddling his expenses. Steven Bartlett, 52, was sentenced on two counts of false accounting which he had denied before Newport magistrates earlier this month. In all, 13 councillors face such charges.

The court had heard that in 1996 he submitted a claim for a £101 first-class train fare although he had bought a £38 ticket. He also claimed more than he should for a car journey to a Brighton conference.

Mark Powell, defending, said that Bartlett had often undercharged the authority. He had repaid the money and was leaving politics.

Jail for 'air rage'

Paul Street, 31, from Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire, was jailed for four months at Ennis, Co Clare, after pleading guilty to using threatening, abusive behaviour on board a London-bound American Airlines Boeing 767 on Saturday. The aircraft had to divert to Shannon.

Bridge ban

May Morning revellers in Oxford are being barred from Magdalen Bridge because of safety fears. In the past students have jumped from the bridge into the Thames. About 20,000 people had been expected to gather there at daybreak on Saturday to hear Magdalen School choir.

Handling charge

A "don't touch" helpline was opened to save thousands of *baby birds* from unnecessary handling. Many are "rescued" from the ground and taken to the RSPCA, when they would be better off left alone as parents will feed them. The (50p a minute) number is: 09096 711211.

Court agreement

Channel 4 is to go ahead later this year with a documentary series on homeless teenage children after an action in the High Court brought by Nottingham City Council. The identities of two girls in *Staying Lost* will be obscured. Two other children have withdrawn their consent and will not be appearing.

TODAY IN SECTION 2

Malcolm Bradbury on the modern library: who's in and who's out

Peter Ackroyd on the religion of science

Books, pages 40-41

هكذا من الأصل

First showing of the prince and the pawpaw

Detail in royal portrait suggests oranges were not the only fruit in Queen's hothouse, says Russell Jenkins

FRESH research into a Van Dyck masterpiece suggests that homegrown tropical fruit may have been everyday fare on the royal dining table in the time of Charles I.

Xanthe Brooke, curator of European art at the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool, has identified the fruit featured in the painter's *The Five Eldest Children of Charles I* (1637) as a pawpaw.

It is believed to be the earliest recorded image of the exotic fruit, discovered in South American Caribbean in the early 17th century, in this country. Ms Brooke speculates that it was grown in Queen Henrietta Maria's greenhouses, where oranges were also produced for the royal table.

The painting, part of the Royal Collection, was originally hung in the breakfast room at the Whitehall Palace, later burnt down. King Charles was known to be fond of it.



The pawpaw: from New World to royal table

The painting normally hangs at Windsor Castle but has been loaned by the Queen to the Walker Gallery, where it goes on show tomorrow until July 18.

Much of the scholarly interest in the painting has concentrated on the images of the children and their relationship with the huge dog. Ms Brooke *said: "Identification of the paw*paw is partly hypothesis and supposition between myself and the head of botany at the Liverpool Museum. The still life has not been described in any entry or descritpion of the painting. It has been ignored."

The painting also features a Lyme mastiff dog, a breed that has been extinct for almost a century. They were originally bred at Lyme Park in Cheshire as a hunting dog and to fight bears. But they were favoured as pets because of their docility with children. The painting shows the dog being stroked by the future Charles II.

In the 16th and 17th centuries they were given as diplomatic gifts. In 1604 James I gave a pair to Philip of Spain to mark the signing of a peace treaty. The breed died out in the early years of this century.

Ms Brooke said: "These mastiffs were used as guard dogs as well as for hunting. In the painting the dog is guarding the children, but he was obviously a bit of a softie. A King Charles *spaniel* is also featured in this picture and is dwarfed by the mastiff."

The discovery of the pawpaw *shows that exotic fruit* adorned King Charles's dining table long before they were routinely shipped from the New World, at the end of the 17th century. Only the hardiest examples would have survived the trip from the West Indies, suggesting the Queen may have cultivated them in the hothouses at Windsor.

Ms Brooke said: "It is clearly no accident that the pawpaw is in the painting. Essentiaslly, she was showing-off and Van Dyck was probably delighted to include it as a novel detail."

The Royal Horticultural Society said the discovery was a startling revelation. It added that there were no known records of pawpaw being cultivated in Britain.



The pawpaw can be seen beside the bowl in the top right of Van Dyck's *The Five Eldest Children of Charles I*, which was painted in 1637

Exotic fruit now a fare necessity

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE pawpaw — or papaya — celebrated in song by Baloo the Bear in *The Jungle Book*, has become one of the most familiar exotic fruits on Britain's supermarket shelves. Sales have increased more *than tenfold in a decade*. Tonnage rose by half from 1996 to 1997 when 3,700 tonnes were brought in, and annual sales are believed now to have topped £10 million.

From tropical America, it is now grown in most tropical and sub-tropical regions and comes from a fast-growing plant that fruits from the central stem after only a year. Pawpaw can be eaten as a *fruit or vegetable, usually* sprinkled with lemon or lime juice and/or sugar. It can be diced in salads, makes good sorbets, mousses and icecreams and is used for chutneys and jams.

The seeds can be liquidised as a salad dressing, having a spicy mustard and cress flavour. They can be dried and used as a spice and, in Australia, Aborigines considered them an aphrodisiac.

Pawpaws typically contain 39 calories per 100g, have more vitamin C than oranges and are a good source of vitamin A and of dietary fibre. They are well stocked with phytonutrients, thought valuable in combating disease.

Britain's Biggest Hi-Fi Stores

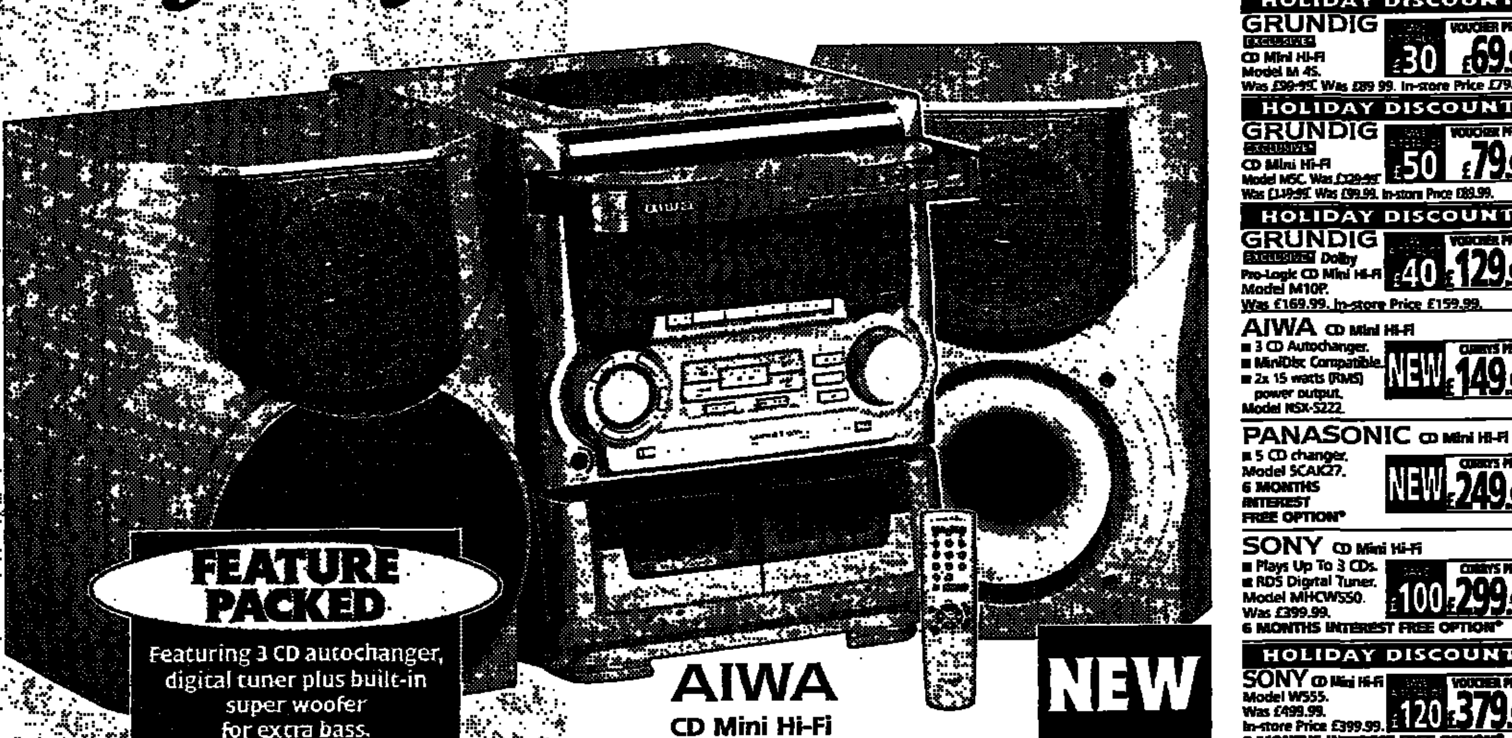
Currys

The Choice for you

BANK HOLIDAY DISCOUNTS

HURRY! MUST END TUESDAY

Mini Hi-Fi SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £120



FEATURE PACKED

Featuring 3 CD autochanger, digital tuner plus built-in super woofer for extra bass.

Easily upgraded to include MiniDisc.

AIWA CD Mini Hi-Fi
- 3 Preset Graphic Equaliser.
- 2 Way Speakers.
- 2x 37 + 12 watts (RMS) power output.

Model NSX-S555.

NEW — CURRYS PRICE £179.99

HOLIDAY DISCOUNT — **GRUNDIG** EXCLUSIVE CD Mini Hi-Fi Model M 45. Was £99.99. Was £89.99. In-store Price £79.99. SAVE £30 VOUCHER PRICE £69.99

HOLIDAY DISCOUNT — **GRUNDIG** EXCLUSIVE CD Mini Hi-Fi Model M5C. Was £129.99. Was £119.99. Was £99.99. In-store Price £89.99. SAVE £50 VOUCHER PRICE £79.99

HOLIDAY DISCOUNT — **GRUNDIG** EXCLUSIVE Dolby Pro-Logic CD Mini Hi-Fi Model M10P. Was £169.99. In-store Price £159.99. SAVE £40 VOUCHER PRICE £129.99

AIWA CD Mini Hi-Fi
- 3 CD Autochanger.
- MiniDisc Compatible.
- 2x 15 watts (RMS) power output.

Model NSX-S222. NEW CURRYS PRICE £149.99

PANASONIC CD Mini Hi-Fi
- 5 CD changer.

Model SCAK27. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* NEW CURRYS PRICE £249.99

SONY CD Mini Hi-Fi
- Plays Up To 3 CDs.
- RDS Digital Tuner.

Model MHCW550. Was £399.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £100 CURRYS PRICE £299.99

HOLIDAY DISCOUNT — **SONY** CD Mini Hi-Fi Model W555. Was £499.99. In-store Price £399.99. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £120 VOUCHER PRICE £379.99

TECHNICS Pro-Logic CD Mini Hi-Fi
- 5 CD Changer.
- 100 x 70 x 70 watts (RMS) output.

Model SCEH600. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION CURRYS PRICE £499.99

Hi-Fi Systems SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £170

MiniDisc
- Digital recording and playback for CD quality sound.
- Quick track access – under 1 second.
- Re-record over 1 million times with no loss of quality.
- Large range of MiniDisc pre-recorded software available in-store.

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★ REVIEW MARCH '99

HOLIDAY DISCOUNT — SAVE A TOTAL OF £170 VOUCHER PRICE £329.99

JVC EXCLUSIVE CD Mini Hi-Fi with Recordable MiniDisc
- 3 CD Changer.
- MiniDisc recording and editing functions.

Model MD-70R. Was £499.99. Was £399.99. In-store Price £349.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

STUNNING

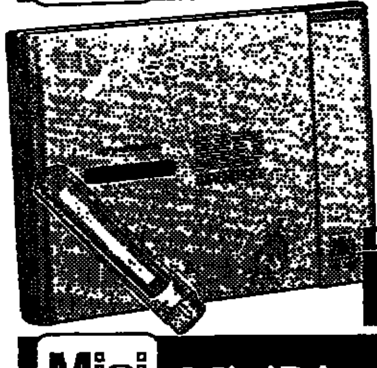
This superb Hi-Fi combines advanced technology with the latest design

Powerful 2x 50 watts (RMS) power output.

HOLIDAY DISCOUNT — **AIWA** EXCLUSIVE Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi with Recordable MiniDisc Model XR85MD Was £299.99. Was £329.99. In-store Price £299.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £100 VOUCHER PRICE £279.99

HOLIDAY DISCOUNT — **SONY** Ultra Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi with Recordable MiniDisc Model Jewel MD In-store Price £399.99. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £30 VOUCHER PRICE £369.99

Portable MiniDisc SAVE UP TO £100



SONY MiniDisc Player
- Remote control headphones.
- Available in Orange, Blue or Silver.
- 10 second Anti-Shock memory.

Model MZ-E25 ORANGE. Was £169.99. In-store Price £149.99.

HOLIDAY DISCOUNT — SAVE A TOTAL OF £40 VOUCHER PRICE £129.99

SONY Portable Recordable MiniDisc Player
- 10 second Anti-Shock.

Model MZR35 SILVER. Was £199.99. SAVE £20 CURRYS PRICE £179.99

SANYO Portable MiniDisc CD System
- Recordable MiniDisc.
- Programmable CD.

Model LMPC3100. Was £299.99. Was £249.99. SAVE £100 CURRYS PRICE £199.99

SHARP Recordable MiniDisc
- 40 Second Anti-Shock.
- Rechargeable Battery.

Model MD-MS722H. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION CURRYS PRICE £249.99

MiniDisc Separates SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £120



HITACHI EXCLUSIVE Recordable MiniDisc Player
- MiniDisc Record/Editing.
- CD To MD Recording.
- Jog Dial Control.

Model RMD100. Was £299.99. In-store Price £199.99.

HOLIDAY DISCOUNT — SAVE A TOTAL OF £120 VOUCHER PRICE £179.99

SHARP Recordable MiniDisc Player
- MiniDisc recording and editing functions.
- Sound Synchro Recording.

Model MDR2H. Was £179.99. Was £169.99. SAVE £30 CURRYS PRICE £149.99

SONY Recordable MiniDisc Player
- Mini-sized MiniDisc recording deck.
- Full Edit Functions.

Model MDS S39. Was £199.99. SAVE £20 CURRYS PRICE £179.99

Compact Micro Hi-Fi SAVE UP TO £50

WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★ REVIEW JAN '99

TECHNICS Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi
- Class A amplifier with dynamic bass.
- 2x 25 watts (RMS) power output.

Model SCHD55. In-store Price £449.99. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

HOLIDAY DISCOUNT — SAVE £50 VOUCHER PRICE £399.99

MATSUI EXCLUSIVE Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi
- Programmable CD Player.
- 2 Band Tuner.

Model MCH550. Was £49.99. Was £44.99. SAVE £10 CURRYS PRICE £39.99

PANASONIC Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi
- Programmable CD Player.

Model SCPM01. Was £149.99. SAVE £10 CURRYS PRICE £139.99

JVC Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi
- RDS Digital Tuner.
- MiniDisc Compatible.

Model UX7000R. Was £299.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £50 CURRYS PRICE £249.99

AIWA Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi
- Top Loading CD Player.
- 3 Band Digital Tuner.
- 2x 5 watts (RMS) power output.

Model LCX133. NEW CURRYS PRICE £99.99

HOLIDAY DISCOUNT — **AIWA** Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi Model XR-M33. In-store Price £169.99. SAVE £20 VOUCHER PRICE £149.99

TECHNICS Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi
- 4 piece component system.

Model SCHD301. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* NEW CURRYS PRICE £329.99

HOLIDAY DISCOUNT — **AMSTRAD** Slimline CD Micro Hi-Fi Model MC2800. Was £149.99. Was £129.99. In-store Price £119.99. SAVE £50 VOUCHER PRICE £99.99

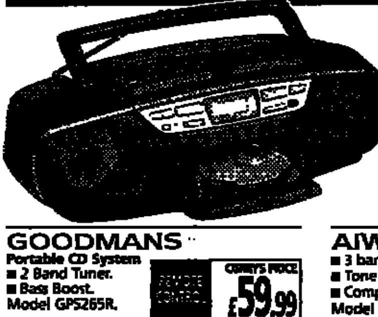
SONY Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi
- RDS Digital Tuner.
- 2x 25 Watts Output.

Model CMT-CP1. NEW CURRYS PRICE £199.99

SONY Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi
- RDS Digital Tuner.
- Woofer for powerful bass.

Model SDL. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* NEW CURRYS PRICE £349.99

Portable CD Systems SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £40



PANASONIC CD Radio Cassette Model RXDT 37. Was £139.99. In-store Price £129.99.

HOLIDAY DISCOUNT — SAVE A TOTAL OF £40 VOUCHER PRICE £99.99

PANASONIC Portable CD System
- Digital tuner with 20 presets.
- 20 watts (RMS) power output.

Model RXDS28. Was £119.99. SAVE £20 CURRYS PRICE £99.99

PHILIPS Portable CD System
- FM/AM tuner.
- Programmable CD.
- Surround Sound Mode.

Model AZ2000 BLUE. Was £119.99. SAVE £20 CURRYS PRICE £99.99

GOODMANS Portable CD System
- 2 Band Tuner.
- Bass Boost.

Model GPS265R. REMOTE CONTROL CURRYS PRICE £59.99

AIWA Portable CD System
- 3 band tuner.
- Tone control.
- Compact design.

Model CSDS-177. NEW CURRYS PRICE £79.99

AIWA Portable CD System with Detachable Speakers
- 3 Band Digital Tuner.
- Remote Control.

Model NSXS-3. Was £149.99. SAVE £20 CURRYS PRICE £129.99

HOLIDAY DISCOUNT — **SANYO** CD Radio Cassette
- FM/MW/LW Tuner.
- Remote Control.

Model MCDZ165YL. In-store Price £79.99. SAVE £10 VOUCHER PRICE £69.99

PHILIPS CD Radio Cassette
- FM/AM Radio.
- Bass Boost.
- CD Synchro Recording.

Model AZ1112. Was £109.99. Was £99.99. SAVE £20 CURRYS PRICE £89.99

PANASONIC CD Radio Cassette
- 36-track random access programming.
- Dual Cassette Decks.

Model RXED 707. NEW CURRYS PRICE £199.99

Hi-Fi with Turntable SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £120



SONY Dolby Pro-Logic CD Hi-Fi with Turntable
- Pro-Logic Surround Sound.
- 5 CD Autochanger.
- MiniDisc Compatible.

Model XB80. Was £599.99. Was £549.99. In-store Price £499.99. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

HOLIDAY DISCOUNT — SAVE A TOTAL OF £120 VOUCHER PRICE £479.99

AIWA CD Hi-Fi with Turntable
- 3 CD Autochanger.
- MiniDisc Compatible.
- 2x 30 Watts (RMS) output.

Model 2-L20. NEW CURRYS PRICE £199.99

AIWA EXCLUSIVE CD Hi-Fi with Turntable
- 5 CD Autochanger.
- 2x 160 watts (RMS) power output.

Model ZR990 EX. Was £399.99. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £50 CURRYS PRICE £349.99

SONY CD Hi-Fi with Turntable
- 5 CD Autochanger.
- 2x 120 watts (RMS) power output.

Model XB60. Was £429.99. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £30 CURRYS PRICE £399.99

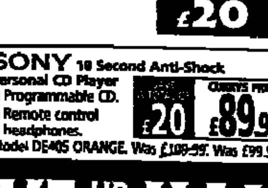
Personal CD Players SAVE UP TO HALF PRICE

GOODMANS Personal CD Player
- 40 second Anti-Shock.

Model GCD91EQ. Was £129.99. HALF PRICE CURRYS PRICE £64.99

HITACHI EXCLUSIVE 10 Second Anti-Shock Personal CD Player
- Programmable CD.
- Bass boost.

Model DAP140. Was £69.99.



SAVE £20 CURRYS PRICE £49.99



AIWA 10 Second Anti-Shock Personal CD Player
- Up to 14 hours playback.

Model XPV-50. LARGER STORES ONLY NEW CURRYS PRICE £69.99

HOLIDAY DISCOUNT — **PANASONIC** Personal CD Player
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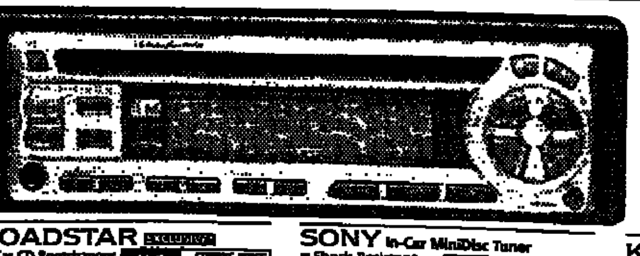
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Tebbit surgeon was dismissed after blunders

Senior medical figure claims victimisation over criticism of NHS, writes Joanna Bale

A *DISTINGUISHED* surgeon who was made an OBE for helping to save Lord Tebbit's wife after the Brighton bombing was sacked after a series of life-threatening blunders during operations, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

David Skidmore perforated a woman's artery during keyhole surgery to remove her gall bladder the day after he lacerated another patient's liver during another keyhole operation. The woman whose artery was pierced required emergency heart resuscitation and a blood transfusion to stop her bleeding to death.

The operations were the culmination of a catalogue of errors that caused "major anxieties" among Mr Skidmore's colleagues at the Joyce Green Hospital in Dartford, Kent, in 1997, said Paul Key, medical director of the Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust.

He told the tribunal at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk: "It was not one colleague but several raising concerns. Both myself and the clinical director decided we would recommend suspension leading to dismissal. As medical director I had a duty to act."


Skidmore: accused of lying to patients

Dr Key said he realised that two operations had gone wrong on consecutive days only when the husband of one of the women told him that the patients had been in adjoining beds and had been comparing their ordeals.

Mr Skidmore, 59, who was dismissed for alleged gross misconduct in 1997, was also accused of lying to patients and colleagues to play down the blunders. Dr Key added: "Mr Skidmore was a senior consultant. Consultants are regularly unsupervised and it is imperative that, in their dealings with the trust, other professionals and patients, they observe complete integrity."

He added: "The findings of the chief executive, upheld on appeal, meant that Mr Skidmore had on several occasions told untruths which were compounded by his persistence in them over a two-day disciplinary hearing."

Earlier in the hearing, Mr Skidmore's lawyer, Anthony Temple, QC, said the surgeon, who lectures at University College and Middlesex hospitals in London, had been the victim of a malicious campaign because of his criticism of hospital management both before and after NHS reforms.

The hearing, in which Mr Skidmore is claiming unfair dismissal, is being regarded by some as a challenge by doctors about who should run hospitals — senior medical staff or non-medical managers.

Mr Skidmore is seeking reinstatement, claiming that the complaints against him do not amount to misconduct because six cases questioning his clinical competence were rejected by the GMC.

Mr Skidmore, who worked at Joyce Green Hospital from 1980, as well as West Hill and North Kent hospitals, has frequently criticised the managements of NHS hospitals and trusts. In 1990 he criticised the then South East Thames Regional Health Authority for overspending its budget and seeking credit from suppliers.

The hearing is expected to last three weeks.

GRANT NORMAN


Bernadine Coady resting after the "painless" operation on her foot

Trance helps patient to blank out pain

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

A NURSING home matron returned to work yesterday, two days after a painful operation on her foot under self-hypnosis.

Bernadine Coady, 58, who was worried about having an anaesthetic because she has a trait of sickle-cell anaemia, put herself into a trance, a technique she learnt five years ago while studying for a diploma course at the British School of Hypnosis.

Mrs Coady, who came to Britain 30 years ago from Belize to train as a nurse, had the operation to reconstruct the bones in her foot so that she could walk without pain. Despite a warning that the procedure would involve cutting muscles and tendons and sawing through bone, she decided against having an anaesthetic because of her condition, in which the blood can easily be starved of oxygen.

She had originally booked a hypnotist to come to the Fitzwilliam Hospital, in Peterborough. Ahmed Shair, her surgeon, had agreed the arrangement with the hospital, but took the precaution of having an anaesthetist on standby in case Mrs Coady was unable to bear the pain.

At the last minute the hypnotist failed to show up and Mrs Coady decided to hypnotise herself. "I imagined my leg as an iron rod and that, when I heard the instruments, it was them knocking against the iron bar. I said to myself that, if I had any pain, I was going to liken it to waves lashing against a sea wall. Every time it happened, I thought it was the pain going away, like the tide."

Mrs Coady, from Wimblington, Cambridgeshire, said: "I worked on the pain. I was aware of everything that was going on. This is the power of the mind, or madness. If surgeons could open their minds to it, you would find more people doing it."

Mr Shair said that he had never performed an operation in such a manner in his 20 years as a surgeon. "She was in absolute control."

The operation requires an overnight stay to recover, but Mrs Coady was able to go home hours later.

Kenneth Phillips, a retired GP who works in Harley Street, said all hypnosis was self-hypnosis. "People who become hypnotised have to be capable of transferring their conscious mind somewhere else." He would like to see hypnosis used more commonly in surgery. "Every anaesthetic is a risk but, with hypnosis, there is virtually no risk." There is also less bleeding.


LINKS

http://www.hypnosis.org.uk/orgs.htm Information and register of medical hypnosis organisations

Adverts are the price of free phone calls

By Chris Ayres

TELEPHONE bills could soon become a thing of the past for callers willing to interrupt their conversations every few minutes to listen to a commercial break.

Britain's first "free" national telephone service, Free2Talk, will be launched in July by Freedom Telecom, a little-known telephone company in which the television presenter Noel Edmonds is an investor. Freedom, run by a 26-year-old entrepreneur, Joshua Sayles, has spent £18 million setting up the service, which it will launch in partnership with the Energis telephone company.

An almost identical service provided by BT will go on trial next month in Bristol and Tyne and Wear, and is expected to be launched nationally later this year.

Customers who want to take advantage of either service will have to fill in a questionnaire, detailing their shopping habits, age, sex and income. They will then be given an access code.

Both services are likely to be aimed at young people, students and low-income households. Freedom's service is expected to play adverts every five minutes, while BT's will be every two minutes.

Similar services have proved a success in Stockholm, where a small company, GratisTel, has gained a 7 per cent market share.

US girls find that thin is beautiful

By Alex O'Connell

SKINNY teenage girls are more likely to go out with boys than their curvier peers, according to a new study.

A mere 19lb can be the difference between getting a date and missing out, says a report by Carolyn Halpern, an assistant professor of maternal and child health at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr Halpern, whose study set out to investigate the implications of body fat on sexual activity, said: "One reason adolescent girls are concerned about their weight is that they believe that being slim increases their chances of dating. Our data indicates they are right."

Researchers followed 200 white and black girls aged 13 and 14 for two years. They found that a girl of average height and weight in the group — around 5ft 3in tall and weighing 9 stone — was only half as likely to date as a girl of the same height and physical maturity weighing 7 stone 9lb.

However, the American findings seem to be out of kilter with the current British trend for normal-sized, healthy-looking teenage pop stars and actresses. Posters of the buxom 16-year-old pop singer, Billie, are currently on the bedroom walls of adolescent boys across the country.

Westminster must not look down on Scots

Life will never be the same again at Westminster. The election of the Scottish parliament in a week's time will not only change politics for ever north of the border, it will also have far-reaching, yet little appreciated, consequences for the House of Commons.

Recent polls suggest that around 15 members of the Commons (plus nine former MPs) are likely to become members of the parliament in Edinburgh. Most of them will probably be part-timers at Westminster, like some Northern Ireland MPs are now.

But the position of all 72 Scottish MPs has changed. This is not only about the long-debated, important, yet unresolved West Lothian question, the anomaly whereby Scottish MPs can vote on health, education and other devolved matters affecting people in England, but not their constituents north of the border.

Much of the day-to-day postbags of MPs concern just those domestic issues which are being devolved. So should a member of the Commons pass on a letter to the member of the Scottish parliament who will, after all, represent the same area? There may be problems even if the two members are of the same party, given the prickly egos of many politicians. Also, what will the Scottish MPs do at Westminster? Not all are like Gordon Brown or Robin Cook. There several poor quality MPs from in and around Glasgow who have little to say on national, as opposed to devolved, issues.

Scotland will have a mosaic of representation. As well as local councillors, Scots will, after May 6, also have one constituency member, and seven regional list members of the Scottish parliament.

After June 10, Scots will be represented by eight members of the European Parliament. But who should constituents contact? What does representation now mean? This issue was addressed at a recent seminar organised by the Institute for Public Policy Research and the Scottish Council Foundation. One theme was "signposts, not no-entry signs", so information should be available about the differing roles of elected members and their specific interests, but there should be no rigid demarcation about who handles what issue.

I doubt if this will be sustainable in the long-term: in Germany, where there is a similar multi-layered structure, most constituency case work is handled at the local or regional/lander levels rather than nationally.

Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The current view of representation will have to be re-examined. As Matthew Taylor, director of the IPPR has argued "to compensate for their lack of job satisfaction, MPs have invested more and more time in individual case work for constituents. But while MPs spend an average of more than 30 hours a week on casework which would be better dealt with by local councillors or a strengthened ombudsman, other important roles are largely overlooked".

MPs should, as Mr Taylor argues, see themselves more as civic entrepreneurs, not just dealing with individual cases but also getting people together (councils, businesses and community groups).

The Scottish parliament will also have lessons for Westminster, not just in the semi-circular design of the chamber, or electronic voting, or the "family-friendly" working hours. The proportional electoral system should ensure that no one party has an overall majority, so the emphasis will be on consensus building, co-operation and consultation.

Scotland is a laboratory of democracy, and Westminster should not be superior, as it usually is, about the experience of other legislatures.

Blame it on Basildon

Tory turmoil has its roots in Essex man's input to party's focus groups, writes Andrew Pierce

BASILDON — the 1980s stronghold of Thatcherism — was an unlikely trigger for the biggest crisis of William Hague's leadership.

It was in the home of Essex Man that 12 disillusioned Tory voters gathered round a table in a private house to discuss why they had abandoned the party.

The health service dominated the 90-minute discussion shortly before Easter, the last focus group in target seats including Basingstoke, Redditch, Leeds and Ipswich. The voters met under the watchful eye of ICM, the Tories' polling organisation. Each person was paid £20.

But it proved the most politically expensive focus group the Tories have commissioned. Peter Lilley analysed the thoughts of the Basildon voters, and decided his party had no option but to go for broke — the link with Margaret Thatcher and the free market must be severed.

The result has been the biggest revolt at Conservative party headquarters in living memory. Mr Lilley, once regarded as one of the most thoughtful and Thatcherite figures in the party, is now an isolated and forlorn figure, the brow beneath his thinning fair thatch furrowed in fear.

Only Danny Finkelstein, the former SDP member who is head of policy, and David Willetts, the Shadow Education Secretary, are prepared to stand up for Mr Lilley, the blond who dropped the bombshell.

The other two former SDP members now running Central Office — Andrew Cooper, head of operations and Rick Nye, head of research — were sceptics in the first place. They are both furious that focus group research has been used to such disastrous effect.

Mutinous Tory MPs are now demanding Lilley's head in the next reshuffle. "He has to go," one former minister said last night. At headquarters his name is mud. Even Mr Hague last night tried to draw a line under the controversy by mentioning Mr Lilley only once in his speech.

"I cannot understand why Lilley made the speech or why he failed to consult us," a senior strategists said. "It is a mess, and it is a serious mess.

"There is great loyalty here to William Hague. I have no doubt he is as redoubtable a Thatcherite as anyone. It is perverse he has found himself in this mess. I can only think he was not properly focussed."

The decision to rewrite the party's philosophy was taken the previous week at the newly formed strategy group chaired by Mr Hague. James Arbuthnot, the Chief Whip, Mr Lilley, Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, and Michael Ancram, the party chairman, were present. They agreed to go on the offensive to try to ditch once and for all the perception that the party was hostile to the NHS. Mr Lilley, who had the Rab Butler lecture in his diary, was nominated.

Francis Maude would follow through with a commitment, which he had made countless times before but had been lost on the voters, to renew the Tories' pledge to match Labour's spending promises on the NHS.

It all went wrong. Mr Lilley showed only the first draft of the speech to Ann Widdecombe and Iain Duncan Smith, who run the health and social security portfolios.

They were to be given final texts but they never materialised. To the fury of both, the final version, which ignored their objections, was pushed in the next day's papers.

Mr Lilley authorised the spin which continued throughout the week with the suggestion that the Tories would bury the party's Clause Four.

One Thatcherite frontbencher said last night: "If this is merely a matter of a presentational emphasis William Hague will keep most of his support. If it is not, and it is a serious shift in policy, he will not. It is as simple as that."

Leading article, page 23

Lilley: the blond who dropped the bombshell

Hague: the leader who wants to ruffle feathers

WHO SAID WHAT: THE ROAD TO A U-TURN

■ "Most Conservatives have always accepted that the public services are intrinsically unsuited to delivery via the market." Peter Lilley, unamended first draft of Rab Butler memorial lecture, circulated to Shadow Cabinet, April 15.

■ "We will only [renew public confidence] if we openly and emphatically accept that the free market has only a limited role in improving public services like health, education and welfare." Peter Lilley, preview of Rab Butler lecture in *The Times*, April 19.

■ "In some public services there may be some scope for introducing diversity and choice among providers of the service and for encouraging public-private partnerships." Peter Lilley, Rab Butler lecture, April 20.

■ "We believe that the private sector, in partnership with the public, can make an important new contribution to the health services in this country." William Hague, in *The Times*, April 23.

■ "Of course it ruffles a few feathers if you do that. But they will have to get unruffled because that is the way I am going to carry on." William Hague, speaking on Radio 5 Live's *Sunday Breakfast* programme, April 26.

■ "The parliamentary party is in crisis over the Lilley speech." James Arbuthnot, Conservative Chief Whip, April 27.

■ "We will always be proud of Margaret Thatcher and we will always be champions of the free market . . ." William Hague, speech to Conservative activists, April 28.

'Private money will help the NHS'

By Roland Watson
Political Correspondent

THE Tories insisted yesterday that they were as keen as ever to get more private money into the National Health Service.

After days of confusion about Conservative policy on opening public services to the market, Ann Widdecombe, the Shadow Health Secretary, said it had not changed. She listed various ways in which she wanted to bring private money into the NHS, emphasising that they would only be additional to state spending, not a substitute for it.

Options being considered include tax concessions for those taking out private medical insurance, help for firms which offer employee insurance schemes and expanding the amount of building and refurbishment carried out under the Private Finance Initiative. She also proposed setting up a commission "to develop ways of adding commercial and charitable health provision on top of state provision".

Miss Widdecombe said: "We are trying to take a very broad view and look at a number of possibilities."

Miss Widdecombe, who was one of the senior Tories to criticise Peter Lilley at last week's Shadow Cabinet meeting over his speech distancing the party from Thatcherism, was addressing a press conference called by Conservative Central Office to try to draw a line under the episode. "There has never, ever been any suggestion, not under Margaret Thatcher, not under John Major, of privatising the health service. Peter Lilley was trying to dispel that myth and he was right to do so," she said.

But both she and Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, refused to endorse the views of Mr Lilley as laid out in the first draft of his Rab Butler memorial lecture in which he said the public services were "intrinsically unsuited to delivery via the market".

Activists bemoan Lilley 'own goal'

By Mark Inglefield
Political Reporter

TORY activists yesterday expressed concern and dismay about the row dividing the Shadow Cabinet one week before the local elections.

Michael Buxton, Michael Howard's agent in his Folkestone and Hythe constituency, said that some party workers were unhappy about the genesis of the row in Peter Lilley's speech last weekend.

A constituency chairman in a Tory seat in the Midlands said his activists were furious. "We don't like it at all," he said. "The reaction here is very strongly against Lilley and there is alarm about any detachment from Thatcherite policies. The problem is no one can identify what's happening and that does not make it easy to get across our message to voters."

Michael Heseltine's constituency chairman in Henley, Michael McInnes, said he was very concerned at Mr Lilley's speech. "When I read it I thought, 'Oh God, not another own goal.'"

Jean Gibbons, acting chairman in Tom King's Bridgwater seat, said it was "not a good moment to be having these internal wrangles".



Wallace wary of bridge too far for Lib Dems

BY JASON ALLARDYCE AND MAGNUS LINKLATER

THE Liberal Democrats could sacrifice their commitment to abolishing university tuition fees as the price of forming a coalition with Labour in the Scottish parliament.

In an interview with *The Times*, Jim Wallace, the Scottish Lib Dem leader, refused to guarantee that a Lib-Lab deal would require the £1,000-a-year charges to be scrapped. His refusal is likely to spark a backlash within his party and among students given that a commitment to abolishing the fees is contained in its manifesto for the Scottish elections on May 6.

Until now, it seemed likely that a cross-party alliance would outvote Labour on the charges in the Edinburgh parliament because the Scottish National Party and Scots Tories are also committed to abolishing tuition fees.

But it now seems increasingly likely that a coalition deal could be reached between Labour and the Lib Dems which would involve Labour promising further investment across Scottish education.

Asked if he would guarantee that a Lib-Lab government would scrap the fees, Mr Wallace said: "You are jumping the gun. I'm telling you that's our policy, that's what we want to get, along with every other policy in the manifesto."

In contrast, Mr Wallace has set out a clear pre-condition for a coalition with the SNP. He still argues that a deal is impossible unless the nationalists abandon their commitment to a referendum on Scottish independence in the first four-year term.

Mr Wallace is diffident about his working title during the election campaign as "the king-maker". Despite the fact that his party may be within a week of wielding the kind of power it has aspired to but failed to achieve for the better part of this century, Mr Wallace refuses to be drawn on what his precise terms are for serving in a coalition government. He even prefers to quote the words of his Labour rival Donald Dewar rather than trust his own. "There's been a lot of speculation about what happens," he reads. "As far as I'm concerned I'm thinking about the 6th of May. The 7th of May will take care of itself.

"There are a number of options currently available. Until we see what the circumstances are, we've not selected one option above another. That would be foolish. Until we are in a position to do that, we will keep pushing our case and listening to the people of Scotland."

It is hardly the most electrifying quotation of the campaign, but Mr Wallace is well pleased with it. He describes it as "elegant". And it allows him to fence round the one question everyone wants an answer to.

But it is clear that he is fully prepared for the great day when, as he hopes, he will sit down with Labour and negotiate for power. The one moment at which he became suddenly forthright was when he was asked whether Labour might simply refuse to negotiate, and carry on with a minority government.

"There would be a presumptuousness there," he warns. "A kind of arrogance that people despise about the Labour Party, who think they can have it all their own way even when the people haven't given them a majority to have it their own way. I don't think that would be the best recipe for stability."

So when will we know what the Liberal Democrats' conditions will be for joining a coalition Scottish government? Mr Wallace has the answer pat: May 8. Not May 7, the day after the elections. "No decisions will be made that day," he says. "The one piece of advice I've had from Paddy Ashdown is: don't make any decisions immediately after polling day, because you're far too tired. I want to get to my bed as early as possible." And which job will he be angling for in a future Scottish Cabinet? "Ha, you're not going to draw me on that," he says triumphantly. "I'm not going to trade principles for a ministerial Mondeo." Not even a ministerial Jag? For a moment, a pause, and then a loud guffaw. "Certainly not," he says. "I'm not to be bought at any price."

Magnus Linklater, page 22

ASHLEY COOMBES

Jim Wallace on the campaign trail in Dundee. On the horse-trading expected after the election, he says: "I'm not to be bought at any price"

Tories in split over stunt



Scotland's two most senior Tories clashed publicly over a controversial election campaign stunt which has threatened future party funding. The split came after *The Times* revealed that the party was facing legal action over its decision to produce 30,000 T-shirts bearing the slogan "FCUK Tuition Fees". Annabel Goldie, the Scottish party's deputy leader, voiced the deep anger of traditional activists who found the stunt grossly offensive.

The party's troubles deepened further last night when a spokeswoman for French Connection, which owns the trademark FCUK, confirmed that the company's lawyers had issued the Conservative Party with a letter threatening legal action. The company is also demanding a personal apology from William Hague. Ms Goldie clashed with David McLetchie, the Scottish leader, who had defended the stunt. Ms Goldie said: "I was totally unhappy about this nonsense and like many others I was never consulted about it. If I had been so I would never have agreed to it."

SNP changes tactic

Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, has put independence firmly back at the centre of his party's campaign, promising to hold a referendum on breaking up the Union "as soon as possible" after the election. In a change of tactics which will please fundamentalists in the Scottish National Party, Mr Salmond suggested for the first time in the campaign that Scots could be asked to vote on independence within the *parliament's first year. When the campaign started*, independence was placed last on the party's ten-point pledge card. A series of disastrous poll results have forced the SNP to relaunch its campaign.

QUOTE of the day

Mike Russell, the SNP's chief executive, denying that the Scottish nationalists had put separatism on a backburner:

"Independence is at the centre and the heart of our concerns and always has been"

today's AGENDA

David McLetchie, Scottish Tory leader, visits the Isle of Arran where he will talk about the SNP's economic policies. Alex Salmond, SNP leader, attends a Catholic schooling conference in Crieff. Labour's Donald Dewar takes the battlebus to Glasgow. Jim Wallace, Lib Dem leader, will talk about tuition fees in Cumbernauld.

Tension rises over Israel poll

Vote hangs in balance, writes **Christopher Walker** from Jerusalem

THE Palestinians yesterday decided to postpone any decision on declaring an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza until after the Israeli election, adding a new dimension to a cliff-hanging poll that moved into top gear this week with the launch of television campaign broadcasts.

The news came against the backdrop of 48 hours of violence in which eight Israeli soldiers were wounded in Lebanon and another was injured in the West Bank.

Even before the latest violence, the future of Israel's 21-year military presence in southern Lebanon and the deadlocked Middle East peace process with the Palestinians — *including their continued* demand for an eventual state — had emerged as key issues bitterly *dividing* the main contenders.

Because of the closeness of *the race — the last poll in 1996* was decided by 30,000 votes — and the constraints imposed on *rallies* by *security* problems, television advertising is expected to play a key role.

The election takes place on May 17 *with 33 parties* competing for 120 seats in the 15th Knesset, compared with the *record set in 1988 of 27 parties* struggling for the 55,000 votes needed to secure a single seat.

More significant are the five candidates running for the directly elected position of prime *minister, which* Binyamin Netanyahu has held since 1996. If one of those fails to win 50 per cent *in the first ballot*, there will be a *presidential-style* second round between the two front-runners on June 1.

Predictions of the outcome in a country where the old joke of "two Jews, three opinions" *is very much alive and well,* have been complicated by the emergence of a new Centre Party, *led by Yitzhak Mordechai*, Mr Netanyahu's popular former Defence Minister, *as a strong contender. Unless* Mr Mordechai *stands down* before May 17, he will open the way to a second round *between Mr Netanyahu and* Labour's Ehud Barak.

Mr Netanyahu is likely to *win a second round because of* a strong turnout among Jewish supporters compared with *that of Israeli Arabs, unlikely* to turn out a second time in sufficient numbers to secure victo*ry for Mr Barak. Neither Benny Begin, the far-right* candidate, nor Azmi Bishara, the first Arab prime ministerial *challenger in Israel's 51-year* history, are given any chance.

Mr Netanyahu led off the *nearly 90 minutes of party* political broadcasts on Monday night, many scripted and su*pervised by highly paid Ameri*can media experts.

Offstage in Mr Netanyahu's *corner is Arthur Finkelstein,* the conservative US campaign wizard who is so *reclusive* about his presence in Israel that he often checks into a Jerusalem hotel under a false name.

Mr Barak — Israel's most decorated soldier — is having his campaign masterminded *by a team of* liberal Americans including James Carville, the so-called "Ragin' Cajun" from *Louisiana, Stanley Greenberg* and Bob Shrum, who were all present at the birth of the famous slogan for party workers in President Clinton's first campaign, "It's the economy, stupid".

"The American advisers will *market the two leaders to the* people of Israel in almost the same way as an advertiser markets a new orthopaedic mattress," said the *Haaretz* columnist Akiva Eldar.

"The difference is that the ratings of the campaign broadcasts really can affect the Israeli citizen's quality of sleep during the next four years."

The outcome is expected to hinge on the whim of floating voters, and the spin-doctors *will be focusing on* the one million immigrants who have arrived from the former Soviet *Union since 1989.*

In Monday's opening round Mr Netanyahu's Likud had *the wit to include Russian sub*titles for the new arrivals. By Tuesday, such is the speed of *Israel's "electoral response* teams". Labour's platform was repeated word for word in *Cyrillic also.*

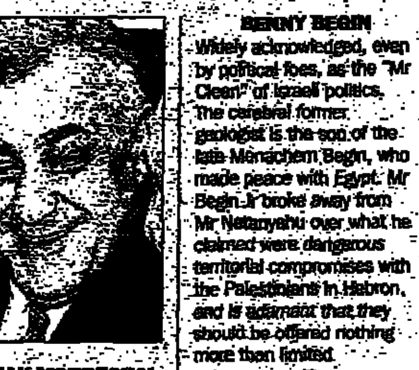


RIVALS IN THE MAY 17 ELECTION



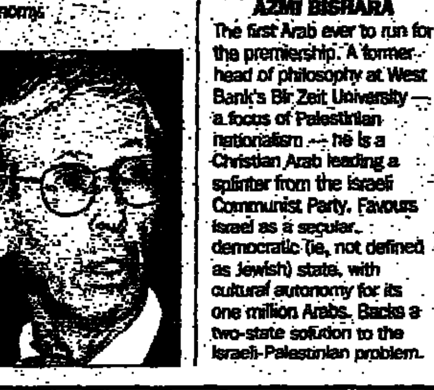
BINYAMIN NETANYAHU
Narrowly elected as Israel's youngest Prime Minister in 1996, "Bibi" Netanyahu was forced to the polls 18 months earlier than expected after failing to hold his Likud-led coalition together over the deadlocked peace process. Uncrowned king of Israel's media-dominated campaigning, he is still a possible winner despite making many enemies while in power and *upsetting the White House.*

EHUD BARAK
Shown by polls to be the main challenger to Mr Netanyahu, the man he commanded when in charge of Israel's Sayeret Matkal elite commando unit. Renamed his party the One Israel Party, but still has to overcome the problem that many Sephardic Jews regard Labour as elitist. Campaign boosted by top former Clinton spin-doctors but could be thwarted by the *new Centre Party.*



YITZHAK MORDECHAI
Popular former Defence Minister under Mr Netanyahu until sacked on TV for his talks with Centre Party, which he now leads after opinion polls showed him the most popular of the founders with voters. Favours continuation of peace process, but has yet to take off in the polls against Mr Barak and Mr Netanyahu. Under pressure to stand down in exchange for top post in a future Barak-led government.

BENNY BEGIN
Widely acknowledged, even by political foes, as the "Mr Clean" of Israeli politics. The cerebral former geologist is the son of the late Menachem Begin, who made peace with Egypt. Mr Begin Jr broke away from Mr Netanyahu over what he claimed were dangerous territorial compromises with the Palestinians in Hebron, and is adamant that they should be offered nothing more than limited autonomy.



AZMI BISHARA
The first Arab ever to run for the premiership. A former head of philosophy at West Bank's Bir Zeit University — a focus of Palestinian nationalism — he is a Christian Arab leading a splinter from the Israeli Communist Party. Favours Israel as a secular, democratic (ie, not defined as Jewish) state, with cultural autonomy for its one million Arabs. Backs a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian problem.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Russo-Chinese frontier pact

Beijing: China and Russia have reached a breakthrough in talks to map out their common border, ending a 300-year-old dispute, a Russian *diplomat said here.* "The task of marking out the border is complete after seven years of work," he said of the 2,656-mile border between the states.

The head of the Russian negotiating team, Genrikh Kireev, had exchanged documents in Beijing with his Chinese opposite numbers, the diplomat said. "The documents are ready to be signed. *It* will be done at the next summit *between the heads of state* or government this year, either in Moscow or in Beijing." *(AFP)*

Home rights for 1.6m

Hong Kong: Officials say that more than 1.6 million mainland Chinese could have the right to live in Hong Kong *as the result of a court ruling* last January (Jill McGivering writes). A government survey suggests that 700,000 people, the children of permanent residents, could apply for residency immediately. *Many are adults,* and their children, more than 900,000 second-generation migrants, would also win the right of abode.

Kabila victory claim

Nairobi: The Congolese Army announced that its forces recaptured the eastern town of Bendera this week after heavy fighting with rebels and Rwandan troops in which 120 Rwandans were killed (Robin Lodge writes). There has been no independent confirmation of the claim, which was made by the armed forces spokesman, Leon Kasonga. If confirmed, it would provide a significant *boost* to the Government of President Kabila.

Capitol bacteria scare

Washington: Safety inspectors have found a recurrence of "*potentially hazardous*" levels of legionnaires' disease bacteria in the power plant that supplies heat and air-conditioning to the Capitol building (Ian Brodie *writes). High concentrations were found seven months* ago. Inspectors said the system would not send the deadly bacteria through vents to congressional offices, but could pose a *hazard* to plant workers.

Supper's ready

Rome: Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, *The Last Supper*, painted on the wall of a convent in Milan in 1498, went on show to the public after restoration work lasting 22 years. Rather than using the classic fresco technique, Leonardo chose a mix of tempera emulsion and oil on a plaster base. The technique, generally reserved for paintings on wood, allowed him to retouch the composition, but trapped damp in the wall. *(AFP)*

Death penalty call

Geneva: The United Nations Human Rights Commission adopted a resolution calling for a global moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its abolition. Thirty of *the commission's members voted in favour and 11 against,* including the United States and China. The European Union-sponsored text calls on all states that have the death penalty to reduce the number of offences for which it may be imposed. *(AFP)*

Grateful Mandela forges closer ties with Russians



Mandela: greeted by a guard of honour

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S renaissance as a world player was further reinforced yesterday by the arrival in Moscow of Nelson Mandela, the South African President.

Mr Mandela, who retires in June and is in Russia to discuss strengthening bilateral political and economic ties, expressed his gratitude to Russia for its support in fighting apartheid.

"*We received enormous* assistance from the Soviet Union, the assistance we could *not get from the West,*" he said. "Russia should have been the very first country that I visited and I have come to pay that debt now."

The two countries signed agreements on the development of natural resources, such as gold and diamonds, and a declaration of co-operation in nuclear energy, specifically the development of helium modular nuclear reactors, thought to be the safest.

Russian politicians now railing against Nato's actions in Serbia are painfully aware of their economic dependence on the West. The Inter*national Monetary Fund has* agreed to resume loans to Russia, beginning with about *$2 billion (£1.25 billion) in an* accord to be finalised in Washington this week.

Birthday bash for Saddam

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq celebrated his 62nd birthday yesterday by throwing a huge party across his impoverished country to demonstrate the resilience of his regime in the face of economic sanctions and a war of attrition by US and British military aircraft (Michael Theodoulou writes). State radio crooned *Happy Birthday in English* while singers and poets led parades of adulation of the man who has *led his country into two dis*astrous wars in 20 years.

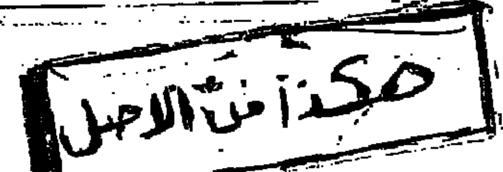
Pol Pot torture chief tells of Briton's death

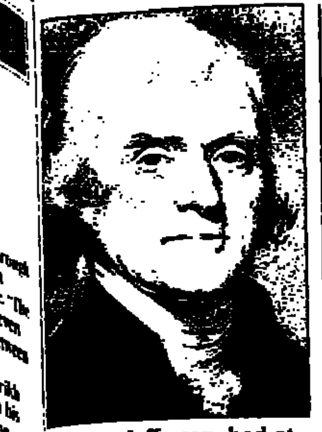
FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

COMRADE Deuch, the commandant of Pol Pot's "S-21", the extermination and torture prison in Phnom Penh during the years of the "killing fields", has been found helping refugee charities in western Cambodia and says that as a born-again Christian he wants to atone for his sins.

Deuch, real name, Kiang Khek Iev, was the *most* wanted member of the Khmer Rouge *regime after its leader* Pol Pot, who died last year. In an interview with a British *photo-journalist*, Nic Dunlop, he said he remembered John Dewhirst, a Briton captured by the Khmer Rouge with a New Zealand friend, Kerry Hamill, and a Canadian, Stuart Glass. The three were executed at S-21. "Yes, the Englishman was very polite," he said. "All foreigners were killed and their bodies burnt so no bones were left."

In his confession after torture, Dewhirst wrote that he was a CIA agent, recruited at the age of 12, and that his fa*ther was also a CIA agent* whose cover was as the headmaster of a Newcastle second*ary school. Dewhirst also said* he attended a CIA school in Loughborough with a sign on *the gate saying* "Loughborough Town Council Highways Department".





Thomas Jefferson: had at east one child with slave

Race row threatens Jefferson reunion

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

IE annual family gathering Thomas Jefferson's de- ndants will include blacks well as whites for the first e next month, but a new pute is brewing over wheth- the black claimants should formally grafted on to the sidential family tree.

The debate over whether Jef- son had black offspring mpted a 200-year-old pater- y suit, which came to a d last November when IA tests showed that at st one of the children be- ging to Jefferson's slave, ly Hemmings, was proba- fathered by America's d President.

he Monticello Associa- , a group of 700 officially nowledged Jefferson de- ndants, holds a gathering n May at his Monticello es- in Virginia, and this year organisation has invited re than 20 black people de- nded from the President's cubine.

he invitation was made y after Lucian Truscott IV, th-generation white Jeffer- descendant, threatened to te the entire Hemmings nch of the clan to gate- h the party on May 15.

1r Truscott said that, un- the black group is formal- ecognised, he will ask all white claimants to take A tests to prove their own ms. "It's racist on its face ll black people their oral ory is not enough, despite A, while automatically be- ing the oral history of tes like me," he said.

Beijing spy 'stole all US nuclear secrets'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

VIRTUALLY every nuclear weapon in the United States was compromised when a scientist suspected of spying for China transferred huge amounts of data from a secret computer system to an unclassified network, according to a report published yesterday.

The transfers, discovered only last month, add a vast new dimension to the investigation of nuclear spying during which, according to the chairman of a congressional committee, the Chinese stole "the crown jewels" of American's nuclear arsenal and continue to do so. China denies the charges.

Yesterday's report, in *The New York Times*, contained allegations that were said to have outraged politicians and intelligence officials. President Clinton ordered Bill Richardson, his Energy Secretary, who oversees nuclear weapons laboratories, to "get to the bottom of it".

Officials said the transfers were made to a widely accessible computer network by Wen Ho Lee, 59, who was born in Taiwan and has worked since 1978 at the Los Alamos nuclear laboratory in New Mexico.

The report said that millions of lines of computer code, giving details of how America's nuclear warheads worked, were downloaded four to five years ago from a computer system that is open only to scientists with top-level security clearance at Los Alamos.

There was said to be evidence that the files were accessed by someone improperly using a password after they were placed in the unclassified network. American officials feared that the files were then passed to Beijing, although an Energy Department official said this remained uncertain.

Experts said the data would be useful to any nuclear power trying to copy US designs. The information contained the "legacy" codes used to design nuclear weapons, analyse nuclear test results and evaluate the safety of warheads. In addition, Mr Lee allegedly transferred the "input" data for specific warheads.

Ray Kidder, a nuclear weapons physicist at another laboratory, said that, taken together, the legacy code and the input data were the equivalent of a scientific blueprint that could be "reverse-engineered" to give a complete plan of the explosive part of the weapon.

Another scientist said that the information was not by itself sufficient to produce an exact copy of an American weapon, but it could be of considerable value to a country such as China, which has signed the nuclear test ban treaty and relies on computer simulations to upgrade its nuclear arsenal.

The FBI was already investigating whether Mr Lee passed information to Beijing in the 1980s, enabling China to design a replica of America's most advanced nuclear warhead, the W-88 used in Trident submarines. He was sacked from Los Alamos seven weeks ago, but denies wrongdoing.

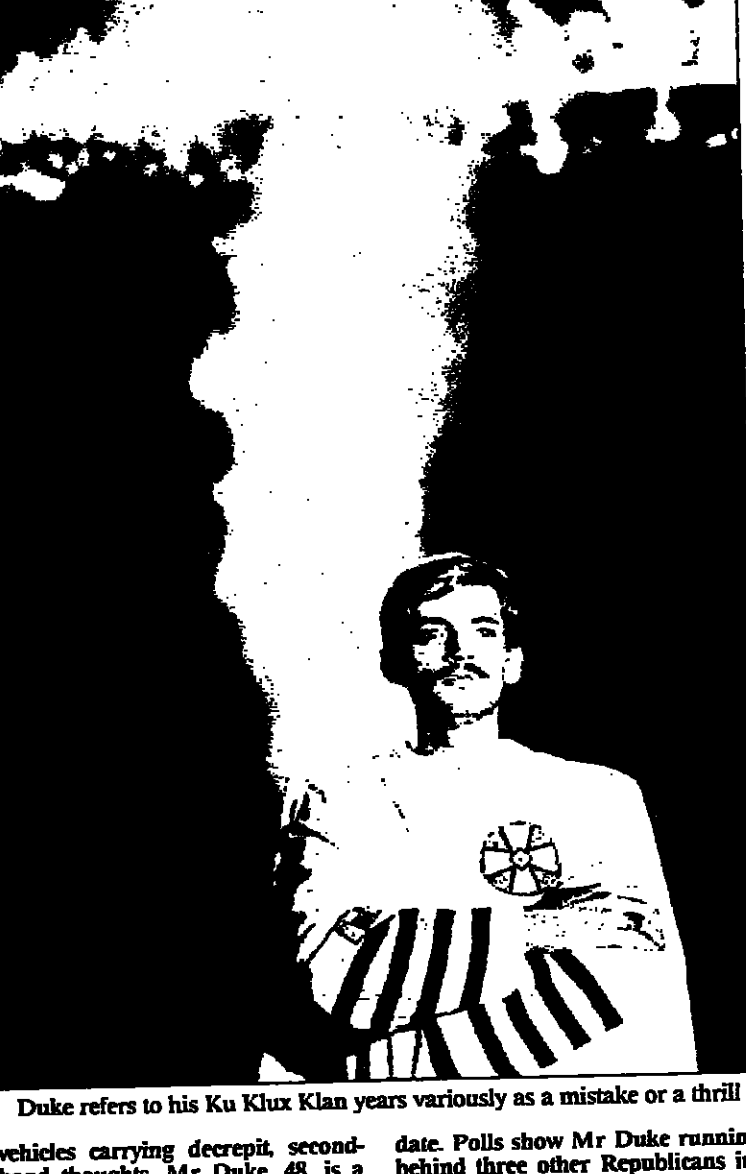
In a potentially embarrassing twist to the case, his wife, Sylvia, a former secretary at Los Alamos, was identified this week as having been an FBI informant. She helped agents to monitor Chinese scientists visiting the laboratory.



Duke in Baton Rouge, where he entered the race for Congress

Political dinosaur revisits Southern swamp

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN AMITE, LOUISIANA



AL STEPHENSON

Duke refers to his Ku Klux Klan years variously as a mistake or a thrill



Supporters are assumed to be too ashamed to confess to pollsters

A PREHISTORIC political creature has re-emerged from Louisiana's swamps in a last effort to win power, his message as hoary and gnarled as a mangrove root.

David Duke, a former Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, perennial candidate and torch-bearer for America's white supremacists, is running for a House of Representatives seat. Some 50 people — mostly men, all white — have assembled in a humid hut on the edge of the bayou to hear an angry sermon that might have wafted back from the Deep South of four decades ago.

"This country was founded by white Christians. Our heritage is at stake. We're being outvoted and outnumbered in our own communities ... people have been raped, murdered, assaulted, robbed. Blacks commit ten times more violent crimes than whites, 1,000 per cent more rapes," Mr Duke rants, as his audience nods and grumbles.

Outside, fireflies skitter among rows of rusty pickups with "Duke for Congress" bumper stickers: decrepit vehicles carrying decrepit, second-hand thoughts. Mr Duke, 48, is a hangover from the past with no hope of winning, according to opponents. Yet his candidacy has sent a nasty shiver through the Republican Party, already embarrassed at having to fill a seat vacated by Robert Livingston, the House Speaker-designate who resigned during the Lewinsky scandal over sexual "indiscretions".

Louisiana's election rules, a broad field of candidates, and Mr Duke's lingering appeal, mean that he cannot be ignored. Seven Republicans, of whom he is one, are competing for the seat along with two Democrats. If, as expected, none wins an outright majority in Saturday's primary vote, then the two frontrunners will go through to a runoff on May 29; if the Republican vote is sufficiently fragmented, there is an outside chance that Mr Duke may slip through.

That prospect, however distant, is sufficiently scary to have persuaded the Republican Congressional Committee in Washington to commission a private survey to see if it should step in and endorse another candidate. Polls show Mr Duke running behind three other Republicans including a wealthy ophthalmologist from New Orleans with the alarming name, given recent US history, of Monica Monica. The front-runner is David Treen, a party veteran and former Governor of Louisiana.

Mr Duke's hopes are pinned firmly on the hardly flattering assumption that those who support him will be too ashamed to admit it to pollsters. In 1991 he drew 55 per cent of the white vote when running for governor, after grabbing nearly 60 per cent of white votes in a Senate poll the year before. A huge turnout of black voters scuppered both attempts and his star has faded since, but Dukedom remains a dark and overgrown corner of Louisiana, fed on a rich compost of paranoia and prejudice.

In an autobiography, *My Awakening*, published earlier this year, Mr Duke called for an Aryan revolution and offered the familiar mixture of Holocaust denial and plans for renewed racial segregation. But it is his simpler philosophy, in which every complaint is hung on the error of racial mixture, that has his Amite listeners punching the fetid air. The Colorado massacre: "Diversity is what caused this shooting." Kosovo: "What about the invasion of Mexicans? Bring the troops home to protect our American borders." (Applause) The media: "They try to make you feel guilty for your white European heritage." The future: "Whites will be a minority ..." (Yells).

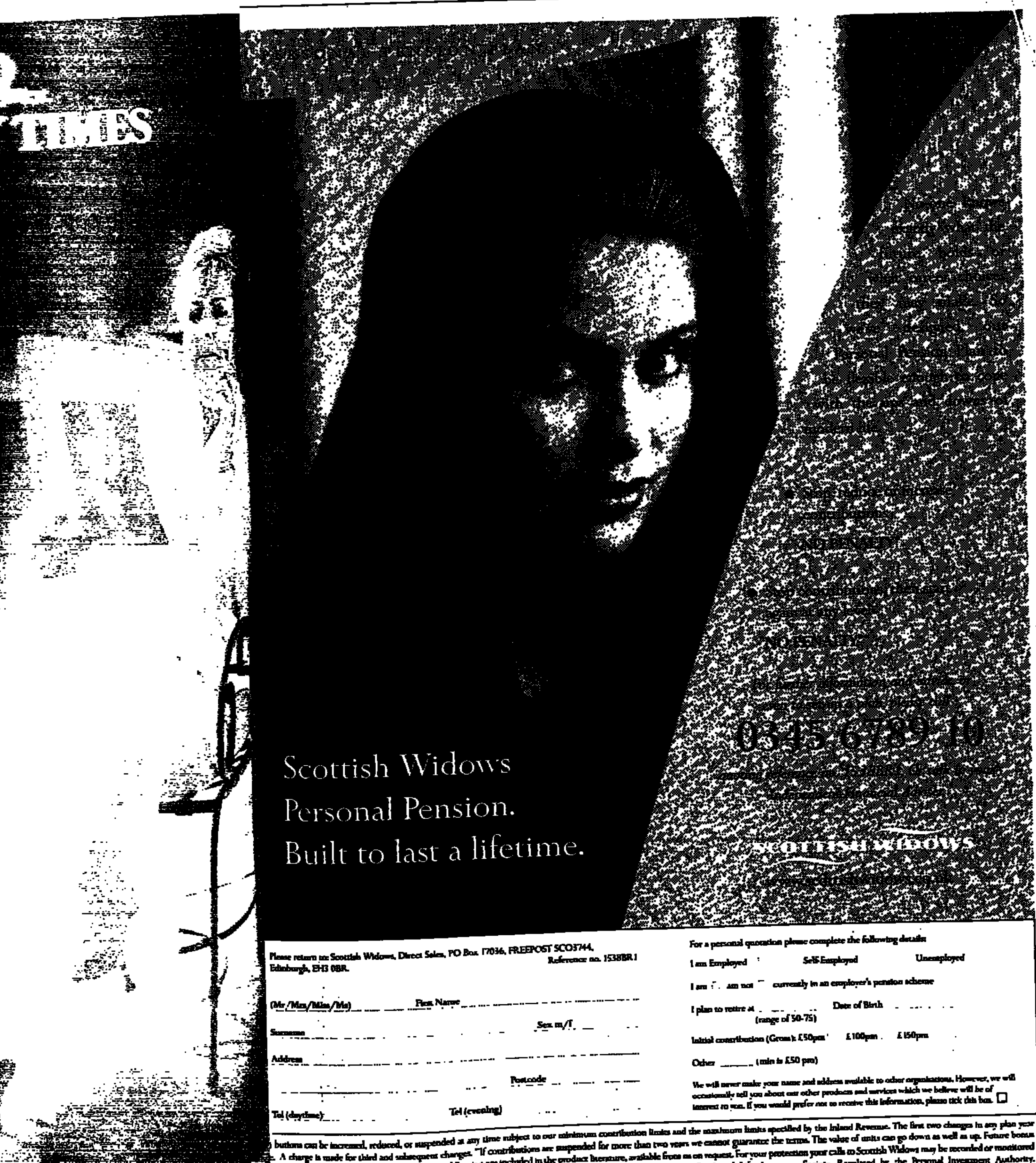
Off the podium Mr Duke cuts a different, more plausible figure. His talk of tax cuts, the rights of gun ownership and the decline of Christian morality could come from any mainstream conservative, a fact that brings mainstream conservatives out in a cold sweat. "Duke is trying to hijack the legitimate conservative agenda," the right-wing *Washington Times* said this month.

The former Klan chief, the object of a deportation order from Britain in 1978 when he came to address racist rallies and organise resistance to non-white immigration, is equally careful to finesse his past, sometimes describing his sheet-wearing days as a "mistake", but more often as a "thrill" of which he is not ashamed.

After 25 years of active politics, nine attempts for office and only one success a decade ago when he briefly held a seat in the state legislature, Mr Duke says that this election will be his last. "We can win," he tells the audience.

It fits this conspiratorial fantasy world to imagine that outside the hut exists a vast but silent body of Duke supporters who share the hate but will hide their views until polling day. "We always fly below the radar," says Ray Anderson, Duke's campaign manager.

Alongside the highway running back to New Orleans, rotting trunks of broken trees loom out of a primeval mud. Extinction may be on hand, but here dinosaurs still roam.





BALKANS WAR: CIVILIAN DEATHS

Nato regrets bombing error

Blair says atrocities by Milosevic far outweigh few Serb casualties, writes Michael Evans, Defence Editor

NATO offered its regrets yesterday after a laser-guided bomb lost its target "lock" and fell to the ground, killing up to 20 civilians and demolishing 50 homes 300 metres from the intended hit, a Yugoslav army barracks.

However, as the latest example of "collateral damage" gave Belgrade the opportunity to accuse Nato of a bombing outrage, Tony Blair went on the offensive, denouncing President Milosevic for his deliberate targeting of civilians. The Ministry of Defence joined in the damage-limitation exercise by distributing a map setting out the atrocities committed by the Serbs against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

The Prime Minister expressed regret over the deaths in the southern Serbian town of Surdulica, but he told the House of Commons that Nato was taking "every single precaution we possibly and reasonably can" to avoid civilian deaths. It would be "the ultimate moral outrage" if Britain and the other members of Nato stood aside while Serb forces committed "appalling atrocities" and raped women "so badly they will never be able to have children".

> It would be moral outrage if Nato had just stood aside

Mr Blair told MPs: "We simply cannot know yet how many people Milosevic has butchered inside Kosovo, but I warn the House that it is going to be a very considerable number."

The bomb that went astray should have hit the military barracks, which the Serbs claimed had been empty of troops for weeks, with laser-guided precision. Other Nato bombs on the same raid hit the target.

Defence sources said that the pilot of the Nato bomber, believed to have been an American F15E, had only seconds to decide whether to drop the bomb.

Although he needed to have a clear sight of the barracks before releasing the bomb down the laser beam reflected off the target, they said it was possible that dense smoke from the other weapons that had been dropped had obscured the target at the last moment, cutting off the laser link.

The only other explanation, the sources said, was that the guidance seeker head on the bomb was faulty.

The bomb, believed to have been a 2,000lb deep-penetration weapon, hit a residential area. Witnesses said the Nato raid was between 12.10pm and 12.30pm on Tuesday.

Rescue workers said it was difficult to count the dead because most had been "blown to bits". At the town's hospital, medical staff were trying to reconstruct the bodies. Miroslav Stojiljkovic, Mayor of the town of 15,000 people, estimated that 600 houses had suffered some damage. Bulldozers were removing huge mounds of concrete rubble to help the search for survivors. Many of the victims in the town, which is about 200 miles south of Belgrade, were in their cellars waiting for the Nato raids to finish. Other laser-guided bombs have also gone astray during the first five weeks of Operation Allied Force, although comparatively few of the thousands of bombs dropped have missed their target completely. In one of the earliest raids, a bomb dropped by an RAF Harrier GR7 lost its way but fell on open ground.

The Prime Minister said that, despite the civilian deaths, he remained as determined as ever to continue the bombing campaign.

The 20 deaths bring to nearly 100 the number of civilians officially acknowledged by Nato to have been killed. Between 65 and 75 Albanian refugees were killed when a convoy near Dakovica was hit, ten civilians died on a train crossing a bridge near Leskovac, and 12 died after another bomb went astray at Aleksinac.

The civilian death toll claimed by the Serbs, and supported by the Russians, is higher, but there is no way of validating their figures. They claim that more than 500 civilians have been killed since the bombing began, including ten in a residential area of Pristina, the Kosovo capital. The Serbs also claimed that 55 civilians were killed on the railway bridge near Leskovac, after initially reporting only ten.

There are increasing reports of injuries caused by the dropping of cluster bombs. Both the US Air Force and the RAF have been striking "soft targets", such as concentrations of troops and vehicles, with cluster munitions. There are reports of unexploded cluster bombs lying around in Kosovo. In a report from Pristina, in the *Los Angeles Times* yesterday, Rade Grbic, a surgeon at the town's main hospital, said that children had been playing with cluster bombs and had suffered appalling injuries.

He was quoted as saying: "I have been an orthopaedist for 15 years, working in a crisis region where we often have injuries, but neither I nor my colleagues have ever seen such horrific wounds as those caused by cluster bombs. The limbs are so crushed that the only option is amputation."

The report said that 300 to 400 people, about half of the civilian, had been treated in Pristina's hospital for cluster bomb injuries since the Nato air campaign began on March 24. However, the Yugoslav Air Force has also been dropping Russian-made cluster bombs from low-flying aircraft. It is likely that some unexploded munitions are Yugoslav.

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DEATH AND DESTRUCTION AFTER 35 NIGHTS OF BOMBING

Targets	Hits
Aircraft on ground:	[illegible]
Airfields:	[illegible]
Aircraft hangars:	[illegible]
Sam missile sites:	9
Oil refineries:	2
Fuel storage depots:	[illegible]
Road and railway bridges: All rail lines into Kosovo cut; 3 out of 8 roads into Kosovo cut	25
Ammunition dumps: one fifth severely damaged	
Barracks: one fifth attacked	
Army Headquarters and other facilities:	[illegible]
Factories (Serb claim):	[illegible]
Transmitters (Serb claim):	[illegible]
Fixed communications sites:	[illegible]

Worst incidents of Nato bombing killing civilians

Massacres at Izbica, Dakovica, Klina and Velica Krusa

Sources: Ministry of Defence and Nato.
Many targets have been struck more than once

Sunny skies herald heavier attacks

By Michael Evans

PRESIDENT Milosevic was given a clear warning yesterday that improving weather would enable Nato to launch an overwhelming number of airstrikes.

General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, said that summer weather would make a huge difference to Nato's air campaign. "And summer is a-coming," he said.

The weather forecasters had been wrong, he said. Earlier this week they predicted clear skies over Yugoslavia, yet it had been Bulgaria that enjoyed good weather. He said, however, that Yugoslavia "is a country in the South of Europe which has good summers".

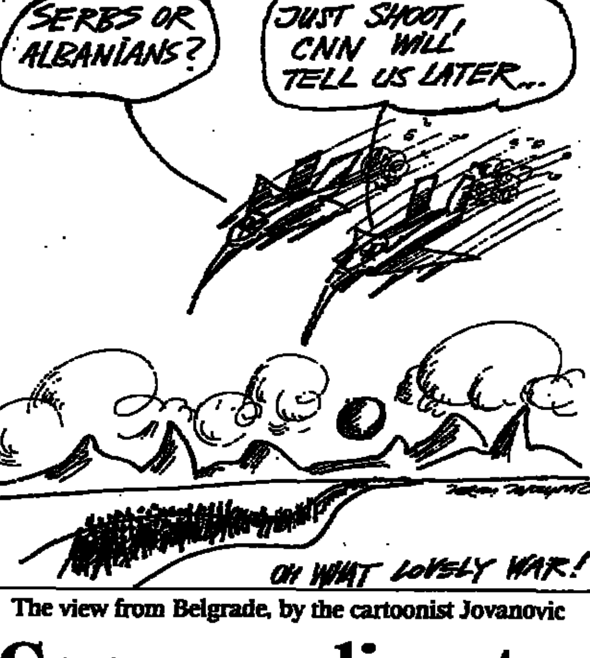
The importance of the weather became apparent yesterday when clearer skies brought an intensification of raids. Southern districts of Belgrade were hit in several hours of bombing overnight. The state-run Tanjug news agency described it as a "massive onslaught".

Nato bombers also hit military targets in Montenegro, including an army communications relay station on Mount Crni Vrh and a Yugoslav airbase near Podgorica, the capital.

As the bombers flew over the Montenegrin port of Bar, which is to be the subject of a Nato oil embargo blockade, Yugoslav navy warships opened fire.

Other targets included two bridges, two fuel dumps, an army training centre, an army barracks in Belgrade and an army command post in Kosovo.

CARTOONISTS & WRITERS SYNDICATE



The view from Belgrade, by the cartoonist Jovanovic

Congress disputes Clinton's right to wage war on Serbs

From Ben Macintyre in Washington

ARGUMENTS broke out on Capitol Hill yesterday over the costs of military action and President Clinton's authority to wage war and deploy ground troops, as the House of Representatives prepared to cast its first votes on the crisis since the air campaign began.

Two proposals — one demanding that the US declare war on Yugoslavia, the other that it pull out — were expected to fail, but a third, that would require Mr Clinton to obtain congressional approval before the deployment of ground forces, was gaining momentum with the backing of Republican leaders.

"This will hamstring our troops in the field," Congressman Martin Frost said as fellow Democrats issued a warning that such a move could even prevent the deployment of Apache helicopters against Serb units in Kosovo.

The White House found itself in the unexpected position of arguing that Congress was preparing to spend too much after Republicans said they were ready to double an emergency cost package but tacked on a number of vote-winning military expenses not directly related to the Kosovo conflict.

Mr Clinton told legislators that he opposed Republican plans to double the $5.9 billion (£3.7 billion) in emergency funding already requested to cover the operation's costs until September 30, but said he would accept a larger package including a military pay rise.

Congress should "resist the temptation" to add other military costs to the bill since this could cause a critical delay, Mr Clinton said.

Democrats accused Republicans of trying to use the military funding issue for domestic political advantage. "We're for winning this war, not ending it," a White House spokesman said.

The two resolutions calling for a full declaration of war or a troop pull-out were tabled by Tom Campbell, a Republican, citing the long-disputed US War Powers law which requires the President to obtain congressional approval to keep troops in combat for more than two months.

"We are at war and Congress has not declared war and that is unconstitutional," Mr Campbell said.

Under US law only Congress can declare war, but only the President, as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, can order in troops.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Woman dies in protest explosion

Athens: The Revolutionary Nuclei group said it had carried out a bomb attack, in which a woman was killed, because of "the Nato murder of civilians" in Yugoslavia (John Carr writes). The explosion at the Athenaeum Intercontinental Hotel on Tuesday night, hours before Sir Leon Brittan, the European Commissioner, was to open an economic conference there, comes amid hostility to Britain over its role in the action against Belgrade. In Salonika, railworkers blocked a train taking British military vehicles to Macedonia.

Refugees flee to Italy

Gioia del Colle: More than 4,000 illegal immigrants fleeing the Kosovo conflict have landed on southern Italian shores in the past five days and the authorities say reception centres for the new exodus of refugees to the Apulian region are close to collapse (John Phillips writes). On Tuesday alone, 1,400 people, most of them women and children, were dropped on the Salentine coast from speedboats and other small craft piloted by Albanian and Italian smugglers.

Kuwaitis raise £8.3m

Kuwait City: A live Kuwait telethon has raised £8.3 million for Kosovo refugees, Yussef al-Samit, the Information Minister, said. Several celebrities appeared on the telethon, dubbed "the day of solidarity with the people of Kosovo", to talk about the plight of Muslim Albanians in Kosovo. Emir Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah has donated $1 million (£637,000) on behalf of the al-Sabah family, and four planes loaded with urgent relief supplies were dispatched to Albania. *(AFP)*

Turkish troops parade



Ankara: A Turkish soldier mans a gun on a tank during a parade at Mamak Garrison on the outskirts of the capital yesterday by a unit that has been readied to take part in a possible Nato peacekeeping mission in Kosovo. Some 1,000 soldiers supported by armoured personnel carriers and tanks are on standby, the military said. Turkey has 11 F16s participating in the air campaign against Yugoslavia. *(AP)*

Fuel smugglers thrive

Sofia: Bulgarian motorists are enjoying a lucrative trade in smuggling petrol to Serbia as Nato considers an oil embargo on Yugoslavia. Customs officials at the Bregovo crossing said about 25 tonnes of petrol a day is crossing the border in car tanks, concealed cans and soft-drink bottles. Serbs pay $1 (62p) per litre for the fuel, which costs about 44 cents (27p) in Bulgaria. *(AP)*

BALKANS WAR: VICTIMS OF MILOSEVIC

Time runs out for voice of Serb dissent

Tom Walker on the sacking of Yugoslavia's Deputy Prime Minister

VUK DRASKOVIC, the Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister, was sacked yesterday, accused of destroying the reputation of his Government.

Mr Draskovic's removal is a setback for Nato, which had hoped he was the cornerstone of a new faction in Belgrade that looked favourably upon some form of foreign intervention force in Kosovo.

The Yugoslav *Information* Ministry said that Mr Draskovic's views had been "in contradiction with the federal Government". It said that *Momir* Bulatovic, the federal Prime Minister and one of President *Milosevic's* most loyal henchmen, had decided that Mr Draskovic could no longer continue his duties. Sources said *that, apart from Mr Milose*vic's socialists, the far-Right radical party of Vojislav Seselj and the communists of Mr Milosevic's wife, Mira Markovic, were behind the dismissal.

In a hastily convened press conference, Mr Draskovic said that three Cabinet members of his Serbian Renewal Movement had resigned in the wake of his dismissal.

Aides to the bearded novelist said that the news of his sacking had reached his party headquarters only through the official news agency, Tanjug. "That's the way it is," said one, admitting that she feared for *Mr Draskovic's safety.*

The regime's swift response leaves Mr Draskovic where most observers felt he was *most naturally placed — in op*position. In his recent outburst he told Serbs that they had no chance of fighting off Nato, and had to *face the reality of a* foreign force, preferably under the UN flag, in Kosovo.

He also blamed the state media *for misleading the nation,* although he tempered this with a heavy dose of anti-Nato *rhetoric. Evidently it was not* enough, and Mr Draskovic had been riding for a fall.

What may have irked Mr *Milosevic more than the sug*gestion that international troops could come into Kosovo was Mr Draskovic's statement that war crimes could have been committed in the province, and that a special commission should be set up to investigate.

Putting a brave face on the Draskovic dismissal, a spokesman for Nato said that it demonstrated there was a split in Belgrade. "It is the price you pay in Belgrade for telling the truth. This regime does not tolerate dissidence," he said.

Mr Draskovic courted trouble earlier in the airstrikes campaign, when he lambasted the killing of the newspaper editor Slavko Curuvija as a cowardly act. "Those who ordered *and committed the murder* have taken arms against Serbia more destructive than all the bombs of Nato. Let Slavko be the first and last victim of those who want to initiate a mad circle of fratricidal murder," Mr Draskovic said.

He accused *Politika*, the pro-Milosevic newspaper, of inciting civil war and the liquidation of opponents. Mr Draskovic was first arrested in 1985 and jailed in 1991. Two years later he was savagely beaten and went on a hunger strike. He was not invited to the Rambouillet peace talks.



Richard Gere, the Hollywood actor, is mobbed by Kosovo Albanians yesterday as he tours the refugee camp at Brazde in Macedonia.

'I want to see my Mummy'

During an unannounced visit, he was reminded by an 11-year-old child who had fled Serb atrocities that there are some things fame, money and good intentions cannot buy (Stephen Farrell writes). The star of *Pretty Woman and champion of Tibetan rights* climbed out of his Oxfam Land Rover and asked Vlora Marevici, from Pristina: "Is there anything that you can *ask me for that you need?*" "I would like to see my Mummy again," *replied the child* without hesitation. Vlora, whose mother, Mevlude, is believed to be trapped in Kosovo after sending the child ahead *to the border with her grandmoth*er, later ssed she did know who sh talking to t he seemed e man". As what he hopechieve, the a said he plan meet Unitedions human officials. "Fow I can juste refugees k that people cout them albund the worl

Refugees endure hours of misery as camps struggle to cope witlexous

Stephen Farrell sees a crisis unfolding as 8,000 turn up at Blace in two days

MISERY *has returned to the infa*mous Blace camp on the Kosovan border, where 65,000 ethnic Albanians were housed in squalid and in*sanitary conditions at the outset of* the refugee crisis a month ago.

As more than 8,000 refugees poured into the Former Yugoslav Republic of *Macedonia* in two days, the largest number for weeks, hundreds of Kosovan refugees were forced to sleep overnight in the open air because there were not enough tents for them in the new transit camp being constructed on the bulldozed site of the old Blace. Aid officials admit that between 400 and 500 refugees, including young children and elderly men and women, were left to sleep on *plastic sheets and blankets.*

They cannot be moved to the larger Brazde, Stenkovec and other camps nearby because those too are "bursting at the seams". Others slept under hastily erected blue plastic sheeting draped from the side of tents, which would be totally inadequate if it rained, which happens nearly every day. *United Na*tions *refugee workers gave a warn*ing that tension was rising in many of the camps, where people are crammed in together.

*"The security is getting worse eve*ry day because of the influx of refugees, the tents are squashed together and the sanitation is on the point of breakdown," said one UN refugee official.

On Monday 4,300 people arrived at the Blace crossing, north of the capital, Skopje, with many held *there until 4am before space* was found for them. Barely had this group been processed than another 3,000 to 4,000 arrived on one eight-*wagon train from Kosovo Polje* and up to 20 buses. Two more buses and another 1,000 people arrived at two other crossings.

Aid workers *planned to move* 1,500 of the new arrivals in Brazde, the largest of the camps into new tents installed at Stenkovec. But they said Macedonia could not *cope unless more people* were evacuated to other countries.

After queueing from 10am to 3am at the border before being ad*mitted to the Blace camp, Sanie* Krosa, 29, and her daughters Anita, two, and Donika, eight months, slept under open skies with no *bread or milk. "I don't mind sleep*ing outside myself, but I am worried for my children," said Mrs Krosa, who left her home in Ferizaj a mgo and has sthe inter-*veriod movingn village* to : before beingon a bus to rder. "I am juad I have an I just wante survive *annut of Kosovo*

tieve Wills, gramme mr of Mercy Ci Internatio/hich managhe Blace caid: "*Until wve more* ter camp can takmore becat are at overcaty. It is a criuation, an emncy."



Dr Thomas Stuttaford eports on National Bowel Cancer Week; he hay fever season; he profile of a nurderer; snake enom and strokes; nd drug advances or MS sufferers

Thi is no im to be squamish

Ahough he came froer- I family, J.B.S. Hahad traditional estalent ducation at Eton Ox- ford. Arly sign of his diver in- terestss that while at C he achiev first in mathematods beforeıg on to obtain a s a classica Greats. He servethe Black ch in the 1914-18 Wer- wards ming a biochemism- bridgel later Professor ottics at Uniity College London

Hale's interest in the ics. and hinse of humour. seim well whe developed can- cer of rectum and need- ed a ccomy. He assured the won a long, humor- ous pcabout his cancer and susted that now, af- ter hisostomy, he was godlik*o now I am like two-faJanus/The only god whes his anus*".

A ccomy is the artifi- cial opg in the abdo- *men some patients* with cectal carcinoma, fortun: an increasingly smalleumber, need if they hto have their rec- tum anus removed.

On Iday this week Tesell, the Mier of State for Publlth, launcr National Bowelcer Week, inised by Colon Calon- cern aupported by ten nancer ches at the House of Cns. Each in the United Kin 90 new pts discover that ave cancerne colon and rectu

Marses are detected beeo- ple haike J.B.S. Haldansed blood heir motions. Theing does nave to be profuselal- dane explained: "*I noticed I was passing blood / (only a few drops, not a flood).*" The blood may be mixed with the motions, may appear as flecks on them, there may be bleeding at the time of going to the lavatory (as with Haldane), or, if the cancer is high in the intestinal tract, the faeces may be black, slightly shiny and sticky as the blood has been semi-digested during its passage.

Colo-rectal cancer is also one of the causes of passing mucus with the motions and can produce a sensation that even after defecation the rectum is not empty. Other suggestive symptoms are abdominal pain or discomfort, particularly lower abdominal pain that lasts for more than two weeks, unexplained weight loss or anaemia — usually obvious because of severe tiredness. A persistent (once again, for more than a fortnight) change in bowel habit — *such as constipation or diarrhoea* — needs to be investigated. If Haldane was now researching into diet as he did when at Cambridge, or into genetics as at University College London, his work could well have been applicable to his own disease. Research by Dr Ian Tomlinson, of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, suggests that about 5 per cent of colorectal cancers are the result of five or ten single genes; in about 25 per cent of other cases a patient's genetic background may increase his or her vulnerability to other risk factors, including diet, which could lead to the cancer.

> Bowel ancer is e third most ommon the UK

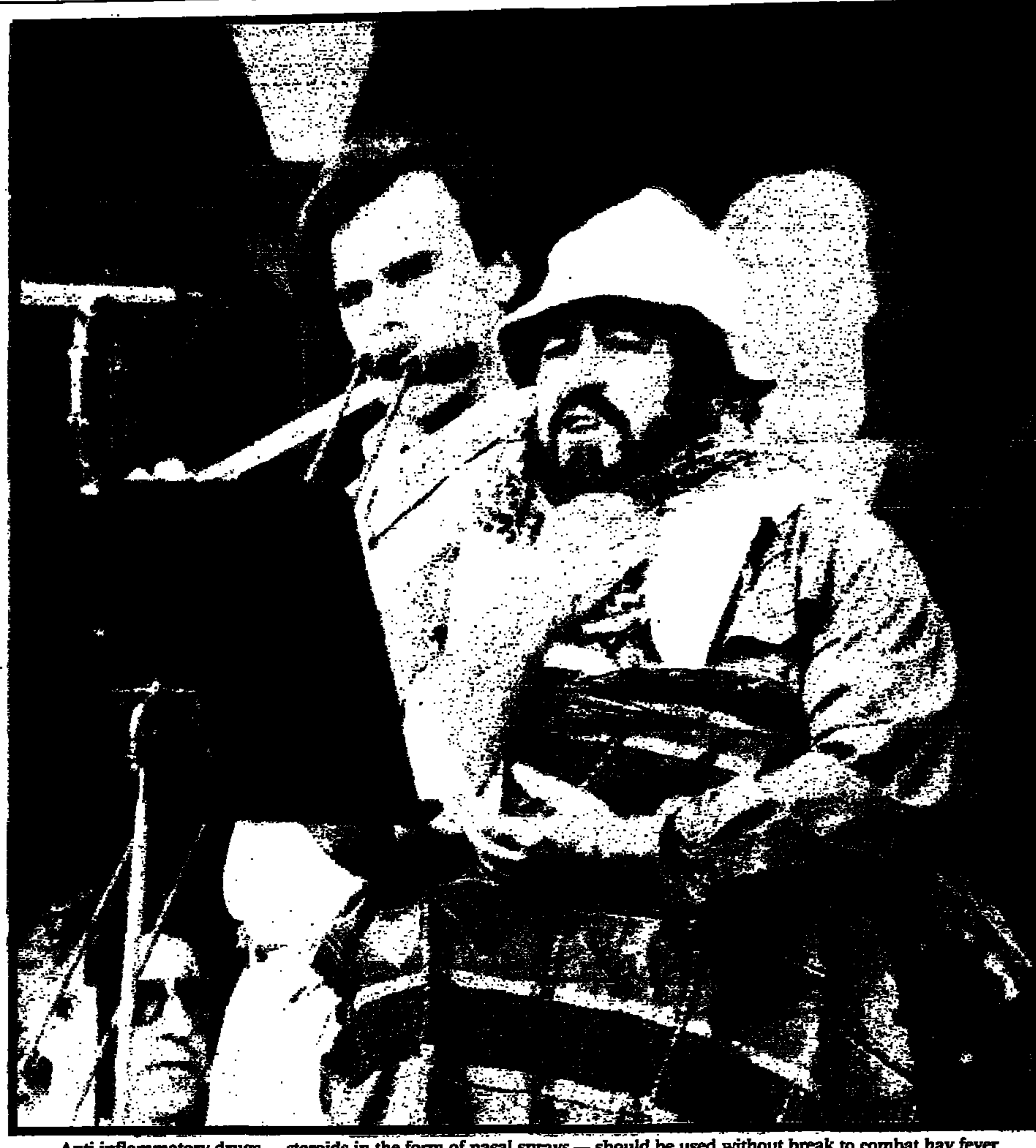
We should all be eating plenty of foods rich in fibre and starch and at least four or five portions a day of fruit and vegetables.

Dr Tomlinson is looking for 1,000 pairs of brothers and sisters who have either had, or have, bowel tumours, benign or malignant. Bowel cancers usually start as premalignant adenomatous polyps. Anyone who has had a bowel tumour and has a brother or sister can help in this potentially life-saving research by getting in contact with him. It will not be unpleasant: just a blood test collected in the patient's neighbourhood and a few questions.

To reduce the risk of cancer of the colon and rectum, we should cut down on fat, choose lean cuts of meat and more frequently choose poultry or fish rather than red meat. We should stay slim, remain physically active and drink in moderation. Recent research has also shown that aspirin may reduce the incidence of colon cancer and it is likely that so too may the new anti-rheumatic drugs, the COX-2 inhibitors.

Haldane wrote: "*I wish I had the voice of Homer / To sing of rectal carcinoma / Which kills a lot more chaps, in fact, / Than were bumped off when Troy was sacked.*" Bowel cancer is the third most common cancer in the UK. Most cases can be treated successfully if they are detected early. Don't panic. The symptoms are more likely to be from irritable bowel syndrome, piles or diverticular disease than bowel cancer. But whatever your age, if you have persistent symptoms, see your doctor.

● *Dr Ian Tomlinson: 0171-269 2884; Colon Cancer Concern Infoline: 0171-381 4711.*



Anti-inflammatory drugs — steroids in the form of nasal sprays — should be used without break to combat hay fever

Hay fever? You don't have to suffer

LOVERS of London's parks are worried that the environment will be disturbed, even in some cases destroyed, by the increasing number of open-air concerts. These summer concerts coincide with the hay fever season.

Twenty per cent of Britons suffer from hay fever. From March to May tree pollens cause the allergy, but the season peaks in June to July when grass pollen is abundant. From August to September weeds are the main cause of trouble. Hay fever mainly affects the eyes, nose and throat, causing sneezing, running eyes and blocked nose. However, hay fever also makes patients feel rotten, so that, for instance, exam results are sabotaged, driving skills undermined and work suffers. Contact lenses may no longer be wearable and sleep may be lost.

Antihistamines by mouth are the usual treatment of choice but they need to be taken prophylactically so that the attacks never develop. Anti-inflammatory drugs, steroids in the form of nasal sprays, should also be continued without a break for maximum effect. Nasal decongestants may be useful, but they can end up making the patient feel worse than when he or she started.

The singers in the open-air concerts may not wish to use steroids in a nasal spray, which can cause some inflammation. However, help is at hand. Rhinolast antihistamine hay fever nasal spray is now available over the chemist's counter without prescription and offers some immediate relief without the need for a summer-long course of steroid treatment.

Inside the mind of Jill Dando's killer

THE murder of Jill Dando has led to widespread discussion about the psyche of someone who can carry out such a ruthless act.

It has been suggested that the murder was typical of a contract killing. Hitmen are usually psychopaths or, in more PC terms, suffering from an antisocial personality disorder. They are indifferent to the laws and customs of society. Among other characteristics, they have no remorse, are indifferent to the consequences of their action, act on impulse, cannot bear to be thwarted and, if thwarted, they often become violent.

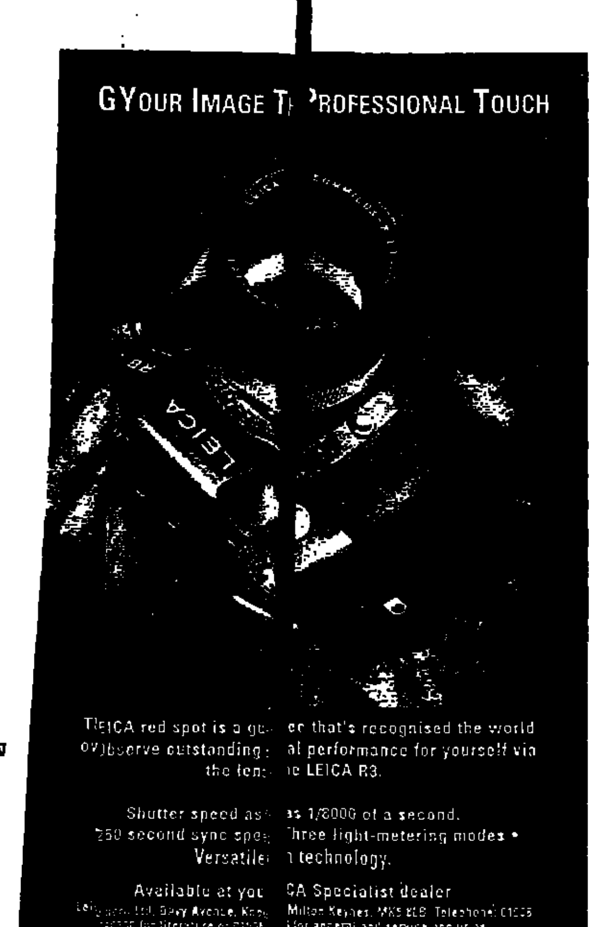
Original reports that the killer walked coolly away from his victim would fit a diagnosis of psychopathy. Hitmen usually plan their actions with care and, although psychopaths may act with a reckless disregard in some circumstances, a contract killer would be unlikely to be wandering up and down the street for an hour before the crime. And unless he knew when Jill Dando was due to return, he might have had to loiter in the public gaze for a long time.

Another suggestion is that the person is a stalker. In medical parlance, somebody who is a stalker is suffering from erotomania, one of the subtypes of delusional disorder. They are convinced that they are not only in love with the person, often someone in the public eye, but that this love is reciprocated, or would be, if only they could get to know each other better. Hence they stalk and try to contact the object of their desire by telephone, sometimes making hundreds of calls a day, or bombard them with letters.

All is comparatively well unless the stalker also has features of another subtype of delusional behaviour — the jealous type. These people, often on inadequate evidence or no evidence at all, will be convinced that their subject is being unfaithful. People who are deluded in this way are so determined in their obsession that no amount of rational argument will overcome it.

Occasionally, this "infidelity" is so upsetting that it may induce either suicidal or homicidal intentions. Doctors have the difficult task of exploring this possibility which, when discovered, must be treated as a matter of urgency. A small advance in the understanding of some types of violence has emerged from the Section of Cognitive Psychopharmacology at the Maudsley Hospital in South London. New brain imaging has revealed structural differences in the brains of aggressive offenders with mental disorders, bringing research closer to finding a biological basis for violence in the mentally disturbed.

Scans reveal differences in key areas, such as the hippocampus and amygdala. These two regions of the brain are involved in emotion and are smaller in people with a history of violence.



Viper venom helps stroke sufferers

SHAKESPEARE achieved a rather greater reputation as a poet 350 years before Haldane. Few people of my generation can have completed their education without learning the Second Witch's speech in *Macbeth*: "Fillet of a fenny snake, / In the cauldron boil and bake" which, as the witch says, makes for a charm of powerful trouble.

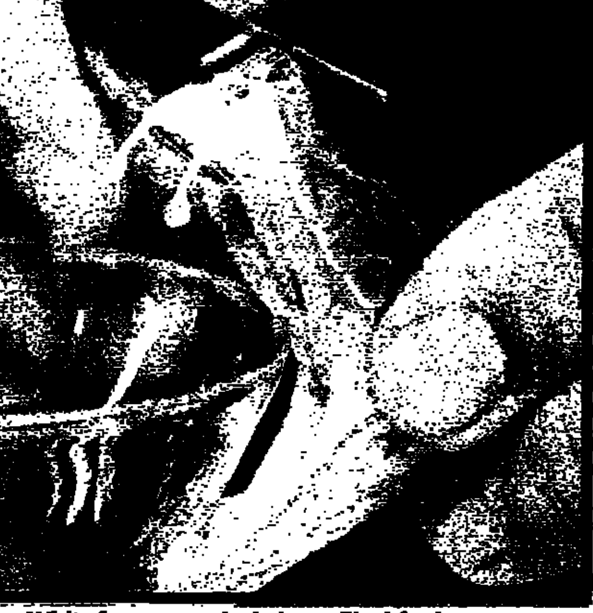
Now a British tropical medicine expert, Dr Allistair Reid, who learnt about snakebites in the paddy fields of Malaysia, has been extracting that powerful charm from the venom of the Malaysian pit viper.

The licence for the purification of viper venom was originally held by Guinness, the brewers, but now belongs to Knoll pharmaceuticals. Venom is still used to make antivenoms, but is also finding a new use. Ancrod, a blood-thinning and anti-clotting substance that breaks down fibrinogen in human beings, is extracted from the venom.

Ancrod may become invaluable when treating ischaemic strokes — 80 per cent of which are caused by a clot. Ancrod prevents further clotting, stimulates the dissolution of existing clots, and improves the blood flow in tissues affected by the stroke, thus restoring oxygen to damaged tissue more quickly.

Knoll is even more excited about snakes than the witch in *Macbeth*. The company cannot be certain that Ancrod will ever be on the chemist's shelves, but it is sufficiently convinced to have invested in a new snake farm so as to expand the breeding and expansion of its stock of Malaysian pit vipers.

PAULO WHITAKER



White fangs: a snake being milked for its venom

MS drug reduces brain tissue loss by nearly half

AS MULTIPLE sclerosis progresses the tissue in the brain atrophies. Interferon beta-1a and interferon beta-1b, trade names Avonex and Betaferon, are seemingly near magic drugs in its treatment; they reduce the frequency and severity of relapses in patients with relapsing/remitting MS, in which the patient is recurrently affected but later makes a partial recovery. Avonex also slows the progress of disability in relapsing/remitting MS, and Betaferon in reducing the frequency and severity of relapses, as well as slowing the progress of the disease in secondary MS.

At a recent conference in Toronto of the American Academy of Neurology, research workers from the Mellen Centre at the Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, presented details of a study which showed that the rate of brain-tissue loss during the second year of treatment with Avonex was reduced by 55 per cent. The Cleveland scientists have co-operated with radiologists from the University of Colorado and together they have shown that brain atrophy continues in MS patients even when they have only mild to moderate disability. It can occur before other symptoms of multiple sclerosis are detectable, and brain tissue loss continues even when the disease is in clinical remission. During the first year of treatment with Avonex there was no difference between those who were having treatment and those on a placebo.

But while beta-interferons offer hope to the tens of thousands of MS sufferers, cost has determined that it is rationed; it is prescribed only for those with definite criteria. Even in the earlier stages of the disease patients, very reasonably, want medication that gives the best chance of preserving their central nervous system.

● *Multiple Sclerosis Society Helpline: 0808-800 8000*

GEORGE WALDEN: MEMOIRS OF AN ANTI-POLITICIAN

LIONEL CHERRUAULT

Stop talking, Margaret

Margaret Thatcher and Lord Carrington: once, when she was explaining to President Reagan the stance that America should take on an issue, Carrington, as Foreign Secretary, slipped her a note saying: "Margaret, you're talking too much"

In the fourth extract from his memoirs, **George Walden** describes how Parliament, the Tories and the country all realised that it was time for Margaret Thatcher to step down

My first impression of Margaret Thatcher was positive: there was absolutely no side to this woman. She treated officials like fully fledged human beings who (at that stage of her premiership) were allowed their say. Foreign Office flannel, you learnt quickly, was unwelcome. As you talked the electric blue eyes bored into *you as if probing for insincerities* or fuzzy thinking. I liked the way she preferred plain speaking, even when she simplified *things outrageously*, and admired her "can-do" style. If you made your point with conviction and could *prove you were right, she* would take the argument while avoiding any appearance of doing so. Watching her *in action it struck me that she* was composed of two vital elements: strong passions and a sharp intelligence. The trick *was to bring the two together.*

Sometimes she would say to me, in tones of reproof: "George, you look tired!" I *longed to reply:* "That's because I am." Later I noticed how often she said the same to others. *Sometimes her commiseration extended even unto her* ministers. In the middle of the talks on the future of Rhodesia, Lord Carrington (then Foreign *Secretary) went to secure her* agreement to a crucial point. It was a Saturday afternoon, and we had flown in that morning from the ends of the earth.

She listened while Carrington made his case, and we steeled ourselves for the usual battle. When he had finished all she said was: "You both look exhausted. Have you had lunch?" We hadn't. "Come upstairs and have a bite. The servants have gone but I'll make you scrambled eggs." Keener to secure her agreement than to savour her eggs, Carrington declined. The solicitude then evaporated while the point *was thrashed out mercilessly*, and finally agreed. Carrington took me off to a late lunch at White's, by way of celebration.

As a minister I was to see that there was another psychology at work in all this talk of other people's tiredness. What *she was saying was that you* were a man, she was a woman, you were a junior, she was Prime Minister, *and yet, unlike you, she was never tired.* Though she rarely looked it, with her blue clothes and pink, glowing skin, *like a Barbara* Cartland confection, this of course was untrue. She was often worn out. You could tell *when she needed sleep* because, like *humbler mortals* in a similar state, she talked too much. One person who was allowed to point out this self-evident *truth* was *Denis Thatcher*. A model political consort, though not lacking views of his own (they were uncannily close to John Wells's "Dear Bill" letters), he never intervened in policy discussions, *reserving his authority for strategic* moments. In the middle of an endless discussion over whisky sodas at 1 or 2am in *Washington, Tokyo or Bonn*, when Carrington and I were aching for sleep, Denis would suddenly announce "Bed, Margaret!", *like a publican calling* time. And to bed she would go.

In international meetings the compulsive talking could *be an embarrassment. During* a meeting with President Reagan, who was neither as articulate nor as well briefed as herself, *Thatcher was explaining* at length the line America should be taking, while Reagan sat *listening, his jar of gum-gums on the table,* smiling his screen smile. All at once Thatcher shut up. Surprised at the sudden silence, I raised an eyebrow at Carrington, who passed me a note he had slipped in front of her. It read: "Margaret, you're talking too much." It is hard to imagine any minister but *him saying it*, or Thatcher reacting as she did. When Carrington and Willie Whitelaw *left the* Cabinet and she became more confident, not to say autocratic, no one would have dared.

> Her contempt towards Howe was astonishing

My experience as a diplomat, then an MP, led me to form my own conclusions about our foreign policy under Thatcher. The common view that she despised the Foreign Office and persistently disregarded its advice was *largely* myth — one later to be encouraged and exploited by Thatcher herself. While ensuring that *she was portrayed as being at* permanent loggerheads with her diplomats, in reality she went quietly along with almost *every recommendation on every* big decision on foreign policy that arose.

It was Thatcher who *said* you never negotiated with terrorists, *and it was she* who spoke warmly of the services to peace and reconciliation of Robert Mugabe, the Marxist *and ex-terrorist leader, after* he had become the first Prime Minister of Zimbabwe. In Hong Kong it was Thatcher *who opened up the question of* the post-1997 future of the colony with the Chinese Government, even though she had brandished the 1841 treaties during a visit to Tokyo to prove that Victoria Island be*longed to us* in perpetuity. And it was she who signed the agreement with China giving Hong Kong back to them *three years later.*

In the Middle East it was she who agreed to the European Community's policy of opening a *dialogue with the PLO.* More talking to terrorists. It was she who agreed to a lease-back arrangement over the *Falklands with Argentina*, whose rejection by Parliament was to lead to war. Sedulously disseminated rumours that she had been against the proposal all along made no difference. The fact is she endorsed it, when she could have stopped it in its tracks by saying "No, no, *no!*"

Then there was Thatcher's stance on communism. In *the Cold War she* was not a goad on American policy, but a restraint. The *Iron Lady spent* much time prevailing on President Reagan to tone down *his Star Wars plans, while* giving the impression that she stood shoulder to shoulder with him on every East-West issue. And when Reagan struck out on his own, stumbling towards a ban on all nuclear weapons in his meeting with Gorbachev at Reykjavik, which in the unlikely event of an agreement would have left *East and West disarmed and* the world free for Saddam Hussein and his ilk, she was horrified.

As for Europe, it was she who signed the Single European Act and took Britain into the ERM on the advice of her Chancellor and Foreign Secretary, forbearing once again to say "No, no, no!" If the Cabinet *was weighted against her, and* if Britain's sovereignty and independence were at stake, as she later claimed, why did she *not resign? There can be little* doubt that, had she been in office, she would have signed the *Maastricht agreement*, too, albeit under *protest*; and with the same opt-outs Major was to achieve. The one occasion on which she did not follow the diplomatic advice of the day — to accept the unification of Germany with as good a grace as we *could as a fait accompli* — she was seen as dangerously out of touch with reality, a perception that had as much to do *with her fall from power as the* poll tax.

Idolaters of Thatcher as the only reliable guardian of Britain's *interests* face a conundrum. How was she brought, time and again, to do her diplomats' bidding? Either she was *not perspicacious* enough to see when she was being led by the nose by her officials (*assuming she was*) and was insufficiently strong-willed to resist; or she fell in with the "Foreign Office line" (say her Foreign Secretary's *advice*) because, as she was fond of saying in other contexts, there was no alternative.

As the 1987 *election neared*, my equivocal feelings about my future in politics grew. I did not see myself as an out*standing minister*, not least because of a fatal inclination to see too many sides of a question. My real interests were *cultural*, and largely outside the reach of politicians. Uncertain which way to jump, I left *things to the last moment. Just* before the end of the campaign I gave my secretary a letter to Thatcher saying I was resigning *my ministerial job* "for family and personal reasons", with instructions to get it to No 10 on the evening of the close of the polls, so as not to seem to take my re-election for granted. Thatcher *(I was told) did* not understand the reasons for my resignation; had I tried to *explain them to her, she would* have understood even less.



Margaret Thatcher with Denis and her daughter Carol

A No 10 lunch confirmed my impression that things were on *the slide. There were six of us*, including the Foreign Secretary, Geoffrey Howe, and the historian Hugh Thomas. Her strained relations with Howe were common knowledge, but on this occasion *her contemptuous attitude towards him* astonished me. I do not know what shocked me most: the way she treated him or his docile reaction. We were *talking of* Europe and different economic models. The slightest deviation from the Thatcher line and Geoffrey *was slapped down.* He lowered his head, got on with his lunch, then came doggedly back, to be slapped down again. *These were not abrasive* arguments, but personal insults. When he hazarded a view about the workings of industry he was told that if he knew so much about it, why *didn't he go to work there?*

To speak to your Foreign Secretary in the way she did in *private would have been bad* enough. To do so in front of myself and an outsider was extraordinary. *She had reached the stage when no one dared* tell her that she couldn't treat people like that. I wondered that Howe did not excuse himself and leave the room. *In the* event, his revenge was more dramatic. Watching him knife *her in the back in his resignation* speech in the Commons not long afterwards was like seeing a battered wife finally *turn on a violent husband.*

Somehow the fact that she had "lost it" communicated itself to the party at large. The *way she went* — Heseltine's challenge and the subsequent vote — was of limited importance. Her judgment was becoming *erratic*, and sooner rather than later she would have had to go. That she was toppled by a parliamentary cabal against the general sentiment of the party is a fantasy of the Right. MPs voted against her not just because *she was endangering their* chances of re-election, they threw her out because the constituency parties were losing faith in her, too. When I consulted my constituency party officers on how to vote in the *leadership election* in a public show of hands a majority came out in her favour. Later I talked to those who had sup*ported her; in private three* quarters said it was time for her to go. My guess is that in Parliament, the party and the *country the view was the same.*

● *Extracted from* Lucky George *by George Walden, published by Penguin on May 6, £17.99; available to readers for £15, including p&p, from* The Times *Bookshop, 0990 134459*

TOMORROW

"If the Tories' laughter in the chamber annoyed John Prescott, he should have heard them in the tea room"

Time for the Iron Lady to go

Now she was *out of* office Denis seemed in higher spirits than ever, perpetually like a man *who had just put down* his first drink of the day. But his wife was a sad sight. From a distance she looked fine *but* close up, *at* cocktails or dinner, her mouth was pinched in a sort of purposeless deter*mination, and her eyes had a* faraway look, like an actress endlessly on the point of delivering her curtain speech.

Watching her made me think how easy it is for former Prime Ministers of the male *sex to age gracefully, all of* a piece, looking more and more distinguished with their balding pates, worldly-wise features and statesmanlike *embonpoint*. Thatcher had not taken her loss of power well and was reaching the age where her over-*immaculate hair set off the* ravages of her face. The result was an eerie dissonance between age and vitality. She was also drinking too much. In the *old days* she would *put down a whisky* soda or two late in the evening, after her umpteen-hour day; now she seemed to have had a little too much before *dinner. There* was no arguing with her any more: in fact it was impossible to talk to her. The *moment you said anything she would* grip your arm and, with a steadfast look, deliver herself of some pronouncement that sounded as *if it had been borrowed from the* archives. She had reached the point where she didn't know she was doing it. One evening, at a buffet dinner with an *East European Prime Minister* when she was on a drink-fuelled high, orating away at our little circle, a Permanent Under-Secretary in our group suddenly *got up and left. I too was* aching to get away and used the excuse of going to the next room to replenish my wine. There I found the man drinking alone, muttering to himself savagely: "I can't stand it any *more. I just can't stand it.*"



Goodbye to all that: Thatcher's last day at No 10 in 1991

Like everyone who had seen her in her best days, when she was dragging a recalcitrant country behind her as a mother does a moping child, I felt a little senti*mental about her. The most* vigorous and intelligent Prime Minister we had had in decades had reached a premature anecdotage. The last time I saw her was after I had announced that I was giving up my seat. She greeted me by gripping *my hand, fixing me with her* ancient mariner's eye, and saying with more regret than malice: "George, you've *lost your soul.*" It was an uncomfortable moment. She had, after all, given me a chance in office. Somehow the chilled blue eyes made you feel like a lover who had *unjustly abandoned her, and that* she was right to chide you.

Menzies, Mandy and marriage

Labour's Scottish success could benefit Ashdown's heir

It may come to be known as the Mandelson Effect, a formula whereby the addition of the words Peter Mandelson to any political speculation causes an immediate chemical reaction, a fizzing noise, lots of smoke and a powerful smell of rotten eggs.

A good example last week was the suggestion that Mr Mandelson had been brought in to advise Gordon Brown on the running of the Labour campaign in Scotland. Phew, what a stink! It was leapt on by rival parties as evidence that Downing Street was manipulating events north of the border. Charlie Whelan, another arch spin-doctor, reckoned that Mr Mandelson had planted the story himself to show that he was back in favour, although the evidence for this was so thin that it seems to have been oxidised in the process.

Now a few more particles of Mandelson have been scattered on to an already combustible amalgam of rumour and innuendo, which could blow up in the faces of the Liberal Democrats. According to Donald Macintyre's new biography of Mr Mandelson, a secret meeting took place in the Hampstead home of Lord Irvine of Lairg, while Labour was in opposition, to hammer out a long-term pact with the Lib Dems. It was attended by Tony Blair, Robin Cook, Donald Dewar, Lord Irvine and, possibly, Gordon Brown, for Labour, and Paddy Ashdown, Robert Maclennan, Archy Kirkwood and Lord Holme of Cheltenham for the Lib Dems. An accord designed to secure the centre ground of British politics was drawn up. It included a deal to consider voting reform at Westminster, for the parties to lay off each other in the election campaign, and to form a coalition at Holyrood if Labour failed to secure an overall majority.

As soon as the story flared up, everyone turned and ran. Mr Dewar denied categorically that there had been any such deal. "I conducted no discussions with the Liberal Democrats nor have I any arrangements which predated this campaign," he said, though he did not deny that meetings had taken place. Jim Wallace, leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, said he knew nothing about it. And Alex Salmond, for the Scottish National Party, dashed off a furious letter to Messrs Blair and Ashdown demanding to know whether the meeting had taken place and, if so, what had been agreed.

It now emerges that there was such a meeting, indeed there may have been more than one. But, according to the Lib Dems, it was about something else. The party's campaign director in Scotland, Michael Moore, MP, said the meetings were held only to discuss proportional representation, that they resulted in the so-called Cook-Maclennan agreement on voting reform, and this was a matter of public record. It had nothing to do with the Scottish party, which was independent; its policy was decided in Scotland not London. That was that.

I doubt if the explanation is quite so innocent; the Mandelson Effect does not really work like that, and how Mr Moore can be so certain is not clear. The evidence would appear to run the other way. The Scottish campaign has indeed seen an absence of any real attacks by Labour against the Lib Dems, and, as the SNP challenge has faded, the idea of a coalition has become firmly embedded. That may not sound dramatic, but to have the strategy decided in London, and so far in advance, could affect not just the Lib Dems' status in a Scottish government, but the party's future direction, and the outcome of its leadership contest.

The conventional wisdom thus far has been that Charles Kennedy, MP for Ross, Skye and Inverness West, is well ahead in the undeclared campaign to succeed Mr Ashdown. Mr Kennedy, who is at best lukewarm about closer co-operation with Labour, is said to have grassroots support and to command the backing of party activists. But in London, the odds have been altering steadily in favour of Menzies Campbell, MP for North East Fife, and a supporter of the alliance.

The key influence here is no longer Mr Ashdown, but Tony Blair. Whatever the status of those meetings in Derry Irvine's house, it is no secret that the Prime Minister wants to cement a permanent relationship with the Lib Dems. He sees it as a key component of his aim to capture the centre ground of British politics and hold it against Tory incursion for the next generation. Co-opting the Lib Dems on to a key Cabinet committee was one part of this. The chemistry between him and Mr Ashdown, who shared the vision, was another. Whether Mr Blair will eventually agree to pay the ultimate price of proportional representation to secure the Lib Dems' long-term support remains to be seen, but he is bound to favour a Lib-Lab pact in a Scottish parliament. It is a sort of dry-run for what might some day be a reality at Westminster.

Magnus Linklater

The fall in the SNP's fortunes has fatally undermined those on the Lib Dem Left, who at one time favoured a deal with the nationalists, and is likely to aid those like Mr Campbell who advocate a continuing alliance with Labour. The Lib Dems' salvation, say the strategists, does not lie in taking it to the Left, but in shoring up the centre ground. The understanding with Labour may have to be more hard-nosed, but it will continue. Of course, all talk of a pact will be denied, particularly by the Scottish protagonists from both parties. But the deal is there, and it will be carried forward.

The only problem is the Mandelson Effect. It is so volatile that it can blow up just when you least expect it. It only takes someone to light the bunsen burner, give the test tube a couple of shakes, and the whole compound starts hissing and bubbling again.

comment@the-times.co.uk





Dr Toughlove

or *How I stopped worrying and learnt to love the Third Way*

When I lived in the United States in the 1980s, in the heyday of Thatcherism and Reaganomics, I knew a firebrand of a left-wing politician from Texas (yes, you can find any human oxymoron somewhere in America if you look hard enough). He had a characteristically colourful phrase for the futile, wishy-washy politics being advocated by centrist Southern Democrats such as Bill Clinton: "Folks in Texas know that there's nothing in the middle of the road except a white line and a dead armadillo."

I thought about this remark in Washington last Sunday, as I sat in the audience at one of President Clinton's famous "seminars" on the politics of the future, this one called "The Third Way: progressive governance for the 21st century". Tony Blair was the principal supporting actor with Gerhard Schröder of Germany, Massimo D'Alema of Italy and Wim Kok of The Netherlands as guest stars. It was easy to sympathise with the cynicism expressed by my Texan friend, as the President lobbed ludicrously softball "questions" about "opportunity, responsibility and community" at the other four leaders, who smugly responded with long strings of clichés about technology, the social contract, globalisation and "the new Left's voyage of rediscovery".

But whereas cynicism is a perfectly healthy reaction to ideological fashions, and intellectual superiority helps to maintain the dignity of media commentators while simultaneously flattering their readers, the question that now seems worth asking is whether cynicism is an adequate response to a movement that has transformed the political world. Whatever may be said about the Third Way's intellectual content, leftish leaders now head six out of the seven main advanced capitalist countries and 13 of the 15 states of the European Union. Not even at the peak of the Conservative ascendancy in the late 1980s could the Right claim either the ideological unity or the global sway represented by the five leaders on the platform in Washington on Sunday.

As if to emphasise and confirm this global victory, the slogans of the Third Way are now being adopted by right-wing oppositions around the world. In Britain, the Tories may be tying themselves in knots as they try to disentangle themselves from the unpopular individualism, social Darwinism and market fundamentalism of the Thatcher years, but the Republicans in the United States seem to be making a much smoother transition to Clinton-style rhetoric. Supporters of George W. Bush, the Republican front-runner for the presidency, now openly tout him as a "Third Way politician". His hard-right detractors deride his "compassionate Conservatism" as exactly the kind of self-contradictory slogan that typifies the ideological vacuum of the Third Way.

All right, I hear you say in exasperation, tell us what all this rhetoric really means. Until last week, I would at this point have changed the subject or conveniently run out of space. But at the Washington seminar I had a revelation. I think I began to understand what the Third Way was about. I was struck by the contrast between the confident body language of these relaxed and good-humoured politicians and the extraordinary caution of their slogans. These were carefully balanced to satisfy conflicting political passions and remove all offence — "freedom and fairness", "rights and responsibilities", "compassion and self-reliance", "economic opportunity and social justice", "global economy and local community".

Anatole Kaletsky

Winning support, avoiding unnecessary controversy and seeking compromise are obvious hallmarks of this new politics, but there is more to it than that. Mr Blair, Mr Clinton and the others in Washington did not get where they were by shrinking from political battles. They have all been pugnacious and successful political bruisers. Neither have they lacked intellectual self-confidence. On the contrary, the new Third Way leaders seem surprisingly certain that, with enough intelligence, effort and goodwill, it should be possible to solve or at least manage all the world's problems, from crime and unemployment in inner cities to massacres in Kosovo.

As Mr Blair actually said at one point in Washington: "History does not set problems that humanity cannot solve." The others expressed the same basic view a little more circumspectly. In Herr Schröder's words, "the new politics is about discovering the right solutions not through ideology but through intelligent experimentation" or, as Mr Clinton put it more succinctly, "what we believe in is what works".

As I listened to these bold assertions, it dawned on me that the distinguishing feature of the new left-of-centre politicians is their extraordinary self-confidence, not the ideological timidity of which they often stand accused. It is true these people are ideologically rootless pragmatists who borrow shamelessly from their opponents' principles and ideas. But this pragmatism does not necessarily reflect weakness.

It is true that the Third Way's key selling point is that it tries to move beyond the contradictions of the old Left, which is politically unelectable, and the old Right, which is morally unacceptable. But when faced with a contradiction, there are two ways that a politician can respond.

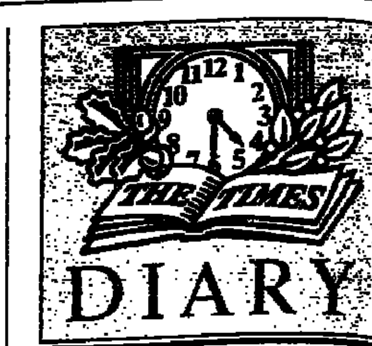
The obvious way is to try to find a compromise that offers some sops to supporters of the two contradictory positions. This is the spineless kind of pragmatism, sometimes called "triangulation", of which new Left leaders, especially Mr Clinton, are usually accused: raise the minimum wage but leave more people without health insurance; ban a few sub-machineguns but do nothing about gun control; bomb Kosovo but don't risk a land invasion.

But there can sometimes be another, more imaginative way to deal with contradictory political demands. Instead of just striking a compromise between two opposing positions, it may be possible to reconcile the contradictions; instead of simply splitting the difference, a political leader can look for practical measures, and ultimately perhaps new ways of thinking, that move beyond the contradictory demands. In old-style Marxist language, which Third Way supporters would not, of course, dream of using, their movement seems to be a synthesis between the thesis of free-market conservatism and the antithesis of old-style socialism, rather than a messy compromise.

If one makes the leap of faith required to listen with sympathy, rather than derision, to the claims made by the modern left-of-centre politicians, it is this faith in finding practical solutions that reconcile and synthesise opposing forces that seems to characterise the Third Way. Instead of simply accepting the contradiction between economic prosperity and social justice, the Third Way proponents believe they can design policies to improve both economic growth and income distribution. Instead of simply offering the electorate a choice between lower taxes and better public services, they claim to be able to deliver both. Instead of making a choice between better education and more selection, they promise that both can be achieved. Instead of simply choosing between cutting welfare benefits and supporting more unproductive welfare scroungers, they say they can design policies that will force more people to work, yet offer better support to the genuinely needy.

Of course, when put in such general terms, the Third Way claims may sound dishonest and unrealistic. But it is in their detailed practical effects, not in their general philosophy, that the Third Way's policies will have to be judged. And unlike many politicians of the older generation, it is when they discuss the practical details of their policies that many of the new leaders really come to life. It remains to be seen whether the Third Way's confidence in its own cleverness turns out to be justified. To Conservatives, who are naturally sceptical about collective action, the Third Way's faith in the possibilities of efficient government seems hopelessly over-optimistic. But in this optimistic era, the efforts of the Right to redefine a genuine Conservative ideology seem even more hopeless.

anatole.kaletsky@the-times.co.uk



Earl blues

SECRETS of Earl Spencer's marriage to the lovely Victoria could be aired in court, much to the old boy's chagrin. While relieved that he will not have to give evidence during his former wife's bitter court battle with her previous divorce lawyers, he is concerned that the case will wreck their confidentiality deal when Victoria graces the stand.

The countess, awarded 1.8 million big ones in her South African divorce, is suing lawyers for £1.6 million. "It's rather unfair," I am told. "I dare say the earl is not delighted by his marriage being dragged through the courts again."

Last time, small-minded gossips were treated to details of the earl's distractions with Sally Ann Lasson and a Chantal Collopy.

FOR those in search of God: the great deity can now be e-mailed at God@dow.cam.ac.uk. This gets one through to His local representative, the chaplain of Downing College, Cambridge, Bruce Kinsey. "Some Christians have a sense of humour," bristles my man with the harp. "It's an easy address. No one forgets it."

■ GOOD to see that Harold Pinter has not lost touch with his rough and radical roots. While theatregoers enjoyed the first night of his light entertainment, *The Birthday Party* (granted a strange West End revival), our Harold was absent.

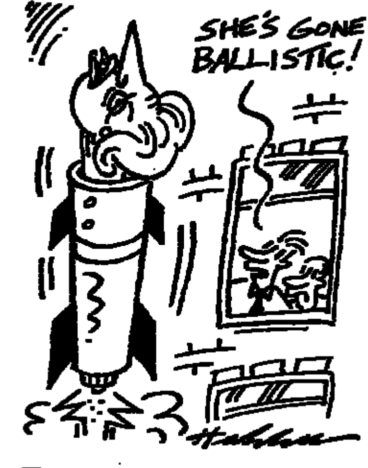
Now I know why. He and his other half, Lady Antonia Fraser, found themselves at high table with Emma Rothschild and other refuseniks at Trinity College, Cambridge.

Not that the cast was too distressed. I ran into the splendid Prunella Scales afterwards, who had clearly benefited from Pinter's unique theatrical analysis. "He came to watch when it was on the road in Richmond," she says. "I fear it was far too early in the run."



■ THE "It girl" phenomenon has just been taken to its logical conclusion: so perhaps its practitioners can now quit the party scene and retire to Gloucestershire with a bar-load of Fulham estate agents. One of their number, Cat de Rham, is throwing a photo exhibition — consisting entirely of self-portraits. Blain's gallery says "the artist, in the honesty of her quest, bravely chose to shoot herself naked". While I admire such brave honesty, dear reader, please be content with this more modest work (above).

RUNNING into Ken Livingstone in his favoured Mayfair club the other day, I was taken aside to hear that he has won over the former Deputy PM, Michael Heseltine: "He said he wanted to get 'Tories for Livingstone' badges made," said Red Ken. Strangely, Hezza has a different take, calling Tony Blair's bête noire *"one of the greatest jokes of modern times".*



■ ROBERT MAXWELL is enjoying the dizzy heights of power. The old rogue's chopper — which used to land on the MGN office emblazoned with his lion logo — now flies ministers. The French Squirrel, based at RAF Northolt, boasts Bob's extra large seat, handy for fuller-figured ministers such as John Prescott. But they may feel Cap'n Bob's presence a little unnerving, as he was not renowned for his successful travel exploits.

MINUS his broken exhaust, Peter Mandelson has now found a new mode of transport — the Tube.

■ HUGH GRANT, nicknamed "Floppy" in *Notting Hill*, really does have a complex about his long locks. For promotion photo shoots, he was so worried about his hair that he had to drink three lagers and play Duke Ellington to relax.

JASPER GERARD

'Jill Dando's murder seems to be the latest excuse for another public outburst of the modern British disease — mourning sickness'

Mick Hume

The murder of Jill Dando is a tragedy for her family, friends and colleagues, a genuine shock to many other people, and a legitimate news story. So why can't we leave it at that?

Why does what should be a moment for private grief have to be elevated into a semi-state occasion, complete with appearances from the Queen and President Blair? The orgy of emotionalism can tell us little about the life of the blameless Miss Dando. Her brutal murder appears to have become the latest excuse for another public outburst of the modern British disease — mourning sickness.

Many have tried not just to report her death, but to sanctify her life, trying to endow an apparently inexplicable murder with some deeper meaning. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, set the tone for the media coverage when he told the Commons that Miss Dando "had done a huge amount personally in the fight against crime by her role, not least in *Crimewatch UK*". In yesterday's *Times*, Valerie Grove concurred that "Because she stood bravely in the studio appealing for help in solving crime, Miss Dando stood for right versus wrong". The article also compared her televised launch of the Kosovo appeal to the anti-mine campaigning of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Posthumous attempts to depict Miss Dando as a symbol of Good fuelled the speculation that her death may have been an act of revenge by the forces of Evil. The front-page headline in Tuesday's *Express* — "Was she killed by a hitman?" — was topped by the banner headline on Wednesday's *Daily Mail*: "Was Jill killed by a Serb gunman?"

When emotionalism rushes in the door, perspective goes out of the window. No doubt Miss Dando was a warm and charming woman. But she was also an archetypal celebrity: somebody who is famous largely for being famous, rather than for what they have done. As a television presenter who "stood bravely in the studio", she was no more responsible for solving crimes or saving Kosovo refugees than her friend Desmond Lynam is to blame for the football results.

Everybody from Julie Burchill to the Mayor of Weston-super-Mare, Miss Dando's home town, has rushed to compare her to the late Diana. "Goodbye to an English rose" read one of the floral tributes outside Miss Dando's Fulham house. And while Tony Blair just stopped short of repeating his eulogy to Diana, Sue Carroll of *The Mirror* did it for him. "If Diana was the People's Princess," she told us, "Jill was the People's Presenter."

Miss Dando was clearly no Diana, more Tesco Metro than Harvey Nicks. Yet those trying to recreate the morbid effusion whipped up after the death of the Princess insist that they were both like "the girl next door". Where "ordinary people" loved Diana for her vulnerability and insecurity, Jill was admired for what one former boss called her "extraordinary ordinariness".

At one time, being weak might have been thought a reason for not getting the Hollywood treatment. Now it is a telling sign of our unheroic age that we should be encouraged to admire and emulate a Princess who called herself "as thick as a plank" and a celebrity who once described herself as "Jill Blando".

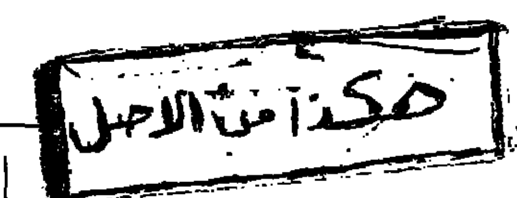
The media must take their share of responsibility for encouraging much of the copycat mawkishness. The response of some journalists and broadcasters has gone way beyond the understandable sense of shock and loss at the murder of one their own. Both the BBC and ITN produced special half-hour programmes within hours of Miss Dando's death — something they never managed for the outbreak of war in the Balkans.

Yet the media are not ultimately to blame. Many people seem only too willing to be injected with another dose of mourning sickness. At a time when people feel disengaged from the old institutions that once held them together, public displays of mourning for a Diana, a Linda McCartney or a Jill Dando (complete with the new rituals of flower-laying, condolence-book signing etc) have become rare opportunities to show some social solidarity.

Respect the grief of the bereaved, but don't indulge the rest of the circus. People may exhibit strong feelings during mourning sickness, but for most they are ersatz emotions, directed at people they did not know for reasons of which they are unsure. As Dr Oliver James said of the tears for Diana, "whilst the sincerity of the feelings are undoubted, their authenticity is not".

Meanwhile, in Belgrade, they drag the body of an ordinary, innocent make-up lady from the rubble of the Serbian equivalent of BBC Television Centre. No tears or TV specials for her.

The author is Editor of LM *magazine.*
lm@informinc.co.uk



NO PRESENT ALTERNATIVE

But Hague must take personal command of his policy review

In the immediate aftermath of Peter Lilley's address last week William Hague proclaimed proudly that his deputy had "slayed the myth" that Conservatives were bent on the outright privatisation of key public services. There has been slaughter aplenty in Conservative circles over the past few days; Mr Hague's interpretation of events continues to appear extremely optimistic. The Tory leader did, however, take the opportunity of a speech last night to offer the sort of language on public-private partnerships that, had it been adopted by Mr Lilley, might have rendered his lecture mercifully uncontroversial. This may help to staunch his party's wounds.

There are certain other myths surrounding this sorry saga that still need exploding. The first is the myth that the Tories are entering the final days of Mr Hague's tenure. There is a hothouse atmosphere in Westminster at present. It will be reinforced by the latest MORI poll for *The Times* which shows that Tory support has slumped again and that, by a margin even greater than that in the electorate as a whole, their remaining voters are dissatisfied with Mr Hague's performance.

But a palace coup cannot take place without a credible alternative monarch. Kenneth Clarke remains an effective performer whose views on the single currency make it impossible for him to serve as leader. Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, may have been a contender six months ago but the refusal of his much-heralded recession to appear has damaged his standing. He has also hurt himself by backing Mr Lilley within the Shadow Cabinet. Michael Portillo is not an MP and any attempt to create a by-election to boost his candidature, history suggests, is doomed to failure. There is no realistic alternative to Mr Hague as leader.

A slightly different dilemma exists with regard to Mr Lilley. The most superficially obvious way in which the Conservatives could recapture the intellectual and political credibility lost last week would be for him to offer his resignation. This would be justified by the cavalier fashion in which he has treated his colleagues, both in the content of his argument and in assessing its consequences. But if Mr Lilley departed because of the dissent over his speech, the Labour Party could cheerfully portray his fall as the price that a Tory politician pays for uttering approving words about the NHS. This could be an even worse public relations disaster. There is thus at present no realistic alternative to Mr Lilley as deputy leader.

Nor will matters be improved by a change of party chairman. Three weeks ago Mr Hague could have still elevated Mr Portillo, by far the most attractive option, to that position. To turn to a potential rival now would look like an act of desperation. It would be easier to revisit this scenario if the Conservatives made unexpectedly strong gains in next week's elections. But if that happened, Mr Hague might conclude that he had no need to summon Mr Portillo to his rescue. There is thus little realistic chance that Mr Portillo can become Conservative Party chairman.

None of this means that Mr Hague should simply sit and wait for the current controversy to dissipate. Profound damage has been done and corrective measures need to be taken. His policy document, *Action for Britain*, scheduled for publication in September, has assumed increased importance. That text cannot afford to be late, vacuous, or timid. Mr Hague has effectively surrendered that process to Mr Lilley and this has been an unambiguous example of failed leadership. The Conservative leader needs to take personal charge of his policy review and drive it through to completion. He cannot afford to assume that there will be no realistic alternative to his continued command for ever.

MIND THE GAP

Access to Justice must mean what it says

Legal aid exists to ensure that no one is denied access to the courts for lack of money. But the costs of the current system have soared since 1949, well beyond successive governments' willingness to pay. That is partly because the system has been abused for ill-founded claims. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, has recognised that lawyers are inclined to accept cases, regardless of their merits, on the basis that the taxpayer will always pick up the bill. That is why his Access to Justice Bill rightly seeks to tackle the problem of indiscriminate litigation. The Bill seeks to scrap all legal aid for personal injury claims. Instead, lawyers are to take briefs on a "no win, no fee" basis.

The taxpayer may be the winner from this arrangement, but will justice? There are two sides to any action. Those who go to law on the basis that if they do not win they need not pay their own legal bills must still face the possibility that, if they lose, they must pay the other side's costs. The Lord Chancellor envisages that insurance schemes will, however, develop to cover the risk of losing an action.

The development of an insurance market is a neat solution. But only if it meets two concerns. Insurance must be widely available and easily affordable. And, for those who cannot always afford premiums but who need justice, there must be a certainty that their actions, if worthy, can proceed. The House of Lords has amended the Bill in an effort to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable potential litigants are not denied justice.

Insurance companies are prepared to exploit this new market, but they have their own obligations. They are inclined to offer cover only if they can be certain that most cases will be won. The mathematics of insurance, and the need to spread risk, make such a calculation inevitable. It is fair to say that most cases which do not have a good chance of success should not be taken up. The insurance market could act as a surer judge of which cases are worth pursuing than lawyers who can rely on the taxpayer to fund speculative actions.

But there are still concerns. If an insurance market fails to mature then only those with very deep pockets will be able to pursue their claims. Some insurance companies are already refusing to deal with solicitors who lose too many cases. Even if solicitors do try to insure all their cases, they will still need to think carefully about the number of risky actions they take on. Injured people with cases which appear difficult may find it hard to find a solicitor. Then there is the cost factor.Even a standard personal injury claim is likely to cost more than £100 to insure.

The Lord Chancellor says that a "hard cases" fund will be set up to protect such people. But he has refused to write such protection into the Access to Justice Bill. The House of Lords amendment seeks to rectify this perceived failing. It tries to ensure that a safety net will exist in the legislation to cover all deserving cases. The amendment is supported by the Law Society and the Bar Council. The Lord Chancellor should not just dismiss their campaign as special pleading. While the amendment for which both they, and leading charities, have campaigned may not be the most effective means of balancing access to justice and taxpayers' concerns, there is a need for Lord Irvine to provide greater reassurance. His worthwhile reform should not be blighted by a perception that it will benefit the many at the expense of a deserving few.

GOOD BUSINESS SENSE

Why companies should help the homeless

Governments should not need to preach family values. When they do, it is a sure sign that the staple unit of society is breaking apart, that in an increasingly fragmented culture people are being cut adrift. The fallout is only too evident. The streets of London are home to a bedraggled army of beggars trailing blankets, beer cans and pet dogs on strings. At least 500 people in the capital are known regularly to sleep rough. And the problem does not end at King's Cross or Victoria. From Reading to Hove, they sprinkle the commuter belt. They are to be found in all Britain's city centres. Yesterday's visit by the Prince of Wales to The Passage, London's largest day centre for the homeless, served to publicise just how severe this problem has become.

The homeless cannot be stereotyped as a bunch of old alcoholics or aggressive scroungers too idle to work. They form a diverse community ranging from teenagers forced to flee abuses to former members of the Armed Forces. Food, a fixed address, access to washing facilities and a training in basic skills offer those who have stumbled a fresh opportunity to find work and self-respect.

This is where corporate leaders can offer essential support. As president of the charity Business in the Community, the Prince of Wales yesterday urged business executives to consider innovative ways in which to reinstate homeless people in society. These may begin with straightforward material contributions, financial gifts or donations in kind. Clothing companies, for instance, might provide interview suits, or hoteliers old bed linen. But less tangible generosity is even more welcome. Company employees have many skills to pass on. They can offer their time in mentors' roles. And employers, rather than discriminating against the ambitious simply because they are homeless, could seek out such people in job placement schemes.

Only through personal contact with those who live on the streets can the more conventional community come to understand them. As the Prince himself found last year when he met a former school-fellow selling the *Big Issue*, the jobless and homeless are no breed apart. The danger is that they can become just that, drawn into drug-taking and despair. For publicity-conscious companies, helping the homeless may not seem enticing. They should think again. A recent survey asked people what they considered the most appropriate ways for large companies to mark the millennium. Almost 40 per cent cited homelessness. As the business world well understands, success lies in consumer satisfaction.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Nato and plight of hapless Kosovans

From Group Captain Keith Chapman, RAF (retd)

Sir, The escalation of Nato's bombing campaign to include soft civilian targets such as the TV station in Belgrade (report, April 24) is not only a measure of its failure to achieve its original objectives, but also seriously undermines Nato's claim to the moral high ground.

Despite the propaganda and rhetoric coming from Brussels, Washington and Whitehall — including the optimistic assertion that Nato fortunes are set to improve dramatically with the deployment of US Apache helicopters (report, April 23) — the fact remains that bombing has done virtually nothing to alleviate the plight of the hapless Kosovo Albanians.

How many more missiles and bombs must be launched and how much more innocent blood must be shed before Nato's political leaders face up to the fact that they have dragged us into a war which no one can win? Common sense, if nothing else, cries out for an immediate end to the bombing and the simultaneous return of this complex problem to the only place where it can ultimately be resolved — the negotiating table.

Yours etc.
K. CHAPMAN,
9 Hedgecourt Place,
Felbridge, Surrey RH19 2PJ.
April 24.

From Professor Emeritus D. Cameron Watt

Sir, As a member of the generation that "learnt their politics in the postwar era amid hopes that the United Nations could preside over a new world order" (report, "Labour Left split by passions of war", April 21), I must confess that, in my experience, Tony Benn and Tam Dalyell are as untypical of the views of this generational group on Kosovo as they are of the views in the country generally.

Presenting the Orwell awards for political journalism on March 30, Baroness Williams of Crosby made one of the strongest statements in support of British policy over Kosovo I have heard. A radical journalist present said to me: "No one in our generation, remembering what we saw and learnt in Europe after the war, could stand by and watch what is happening in Kosovo today without doing something." He, I and Baroness Williams were all Oxbridge, vintage 1948.

Much the same image of generational solidarity emerged during the public debate of 1989-91 over the war crimes legislation; though here it was confronting our elders led by Lord Shawcross, the late Lord Beloff and others.

Yours sincerely,
D. CAMERON WATT
(Professor Emeritus of International History),
London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2A 2AE.
April 26.

From Dr C. Storer

Sir, Day by day the media carry harrowing reports of children from Kosovo who have been separated from parents and of husbands who have been separated from wives, raising the question of whether the families can ever be reunited. Those concerned do not even know whether their loved ones are alive or dead, nor which country survivors may be in.

You carried an item on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database on the Internet (article, Interface, November 11, 1998; report, January 22). Using that database, one can obtain details such as location of grave or memorial of any one of the millions of Commonwealth casualties from wars this century. It took me less than five minutes to locate an individual record, and I am an Internet novice.

Could not the Government construct a similar database carrying the name and previous address in Kosovo of all refugees seeking relatives? Presumably this could be built so that refugees could enter their own details as well as search for records of loved ones. Setting up such a database might cost less than one cruise missile.

If the Government does not start the project, I offer my services for data input if one of your readers volunteers to construct the website.

Yours faithfully,
C. C. STORER,
Deeping, Bevyl Road,
Parkgate, South Wirral L64 6RR.
chris@cstorer.freeserve.co.uk
April 28.

Performance and pay

From Mr Robert Russell

Sir, Dr Alan Shrank (letter, April 26) accuses politicians advocating performance-related pay for teachers of pursuing policies "abandoned by those who have introduced them in the past", and claims that commerce is disenchanted with this policy.

Is he suggesting that employers should pay staff for simply turning up to work?

Yours faithfully,
R. C. RUSSELL,
The Granary,
Bates Farm, Wittersham,
Tenterden, Kent TN30 7PL.
April 26.

Walden's 'donnish' political views

From Mr Russell Wood

Sir, I have always regarded George Walden (book extracts, April 26, 27 and 28) as someone who is a complete academic and who is absolutely out of place in the political world. All the politicians he condemns, compared to him, are true political animals.

For example, William Hague has a masterly brilliance in the House of Commons and easily outperforms Tony Blair. His reply to the Chancellor in the last Budget debate was absolutely outstanding. He is also an orator with Churchillian qualities of whom there have been very few since the war.

All of this, however, has been lost on the donnish George Walden.

Yours truly,
RUSSELL WOOD,
The White Cottage,
Chigwell Village, Essex IG7 6QB.
April 26.

From Mr J. McCubbin

Sir, The recollections of George Walden make terrific reading. The writing is pithy and chock-a-block with flavour. They are insightful and gossipy.

The most astounding insight, however, must be the ease with which Walden could be persuaded to troop to the voting chamber of John Major's desire (April 26). That a man in high office, at the peak of his career, in the pay of the taxpayer, could be so cheaply won over against his better judgment is astonishing. That he claims it was because he was so squeamish about the other opponents of Maastricht beggars belief.

When he considered the consequences of a major treaty with such profound implications for the future sovereignty of the nation, in truth, weak-willed Walden was of no more service to the nation than the pager-worshipping backbenchers of the Labour Party.

Yours faithfully,
J. McCUBBIN,
Sandon House, Bakewell Street,
Stoke-on-Trent ST4 5HJ.
April 27.

From Professor P. B. Harris

Sir, George Walden's account of British politics circa 1997 may or may not be true, but in one respect it is caricature. As an observer of Hong Kong politics for 30 years I find his picture of Hong Kong under Chris Patten grotesquely inaccurate.

Walden sees a conflict between great forces, "democracy" (never explained in the Hong Kong context), and non-democracy. He refers to letters passed between the British and Chinese Governments as if these were the battleground of these rival ideologies. I see nothing more in these letters but a juggling of figures in a series of technical memoranda over the numbers of directly elected and functional constituency members in the final days of the colonial Legislative Council.

Chris Patten did not set out to introduce "democracy" in Hong Kong. He moved incrementally simply by working within the limits of the 1984 Sino-British Agreement, pushing popular representation to its furthest extent. Functional constituencies, or group representation, remained and remain to this day, and for the foreseeable future.

The real issue in Hong Kong is not the Legislative Council and its composition, but the survival of the rule of law, now currently being thrashed out in the courts.

Yours faithfully,
P. B. HARRIS
(Professor Emeritus of Political Science,
University of Hong Kong),
28 Queen Anne Square,
Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3ED.
April 27.

From Mr Tony Salter

Sir, Conservative politicians must be finding it hard to believe that George Walden was once their Honourable Friend.

Yours faithfully,
TONY SALTER,
38 Bennett Park,
Blackheath, SE3 9RB.
April 27.

Tories and free market

From Mr Roger Hole

Sir, You report (April 26) Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, as saying: "In government we sometimes sounded as if we were only interested in markets . . . But someone suffering from cancer is a patient who wants to be cared for, not a customer within the internal market."

He seems to forget that in 1989, at the start of the Tory NHS reforms, every hospital doctor received a 15-page letter from Sir Duncan Nichol (then NHS Chief Executive) actually instructing all staff to look on all people using the NHS as "customers" — the word "patient" hardly appeared.

No one can be blamed if 15 pages of instruction stick in the memory rather longer than the occasional misunderstood comments of that Government, which he now seeks to correct as if they were just minor errors of presentation.

In 1987 I met William Hague for the first and only time: he seemed keen on the "internal market" for the NHS. A Tory decade of deliberate market policy in the NHS deserves a rather stronger admission of culpability if the Opposition is to be believed.

Yours truly,
ROGER HOLE
(NHS consultant, 1973-95),
Wynd House,
The Wynd, Hutton Rudby,
North Yorkshire TS15 0ES.
April 26.

From Mr Kenneth J. Jordan

Sir, Peter Lilley is only half right when he says that "the free market has only a limited role in improving public services like health, education and welfare" (report, April 21). Its role is, indeed, limited but the Conservative Party has not yet found or reached those limits.

Pusillanimous leadership which puts more faith in focus groups than in rigorous and radical thinking will never find those limits. Nor will it be entrusted with the task by the electorate.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH J. JORDAN,
2 Roeheath, Cinder Hill,
Chailey, East Sussex BN8 4HR.
ken.jordan@dial.pipex.com
April 27.

New D-G for BBC

From Mr John Hambley

Sir, It is clear that the next BBC Director-General will be under constant scrutiny for signs of political bias. This is an excellent safeguard of the public interest, and preferable to Sir Paul Fox's curious suggestion (letter, April 26; see also letters, April 20, 21 and 23) that candidates may qualify only after a lifetime spent hiding their political sympathies.

The BBC needs a strong champion of viewers and listeners who will place programme-making above management consultancy and fight vigorously for public service broadcasting in the gloves-off competition of the next decade.

Those qualities may not be found readily in those whose allegiances have either been concealed or have shifted with every wind.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HAMBLEY,
4 St Elmo Road, W12 9EA.
April 27.

From Mr Len Harris

Sir, Nigel Havers asserts (letter, April 23) that anyone who met Greg Dyke would know that politics has never reared its ugly head during his astonishing 35-year career.

My encounter with Greg Dyke took place 22 years ago, and I found him to be not just intensely political, but fervently so.

He was the Labour candidate for the seat of Putney in the 1977 Greater London Council elections. As the victorious Conservative candidate for Putney I had ample opportunity to witness at first hand Greg Dyke's socialist leanings.

Yours sincerely,
LEN HARRIS,
Middle Royden,
Kingswood Road, Shortlands,
Bromley, Kent BR2 0HL.
April 24.

Pinochet extradition

From Mr Robert Rhodes, QC

Sir, Lord Lamont of Lerwick (letter, April 23) plaintively asks, regarding General Pinochet: "What sort of justice is it when . . . it is not necessary to consider whether there is sufficient evidence to warrant a trial?"

The short answer is that it is the justice that the Government of which Lord Lamont was a prominent member forced through Parliament when enacting the Extradition Act 1989, Section 9(4). That sub-section provides precisely the matter of which Lord Lamont now complains.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT RHODES,
4 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4Y 7DL.

From Viscount Montgomery of Alamein

Sir, Lord Lamont makes an important point about the damage done to British justice by the most recent decision of the Home Secretary in the Pinochet extradition proceedings, especially in view of the implication of the law lords' statement that the number of cases of alleged malpractice had been reduced to a possible maximum of three (reports, March 25).

But there is further cause for concern with a Government that preaches openness but does not practise it. The Pinochet case can be discussed in the press, on the radio, on television, but not in Parliament where ministers claim it is "sub judice". Given that the decisions by the Home Secretary are strictly political this seems a most curious manifestation of democracy.

Yours faithfully,
MONTGOMERY,
House of Lords.
April 26.

Letters may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Clue to man's 'hybrid' ancestry

From Dr Euan W. MacKie

Sir, Your report (April 21) about the discovery in the Lapedo Valley in Portugal of the skeleton of the four-year-old part-Neanderthal boy, about 24,500 years in age, arouses interest, not least because of the claims made about its great significance for our understanding of the relationship between these archaic humans and the newly arrived modern people, our ancestors. The skeleton is positively said by Professor Erik Trinkaus to show interbreeding between the two groups, hitherto thought of as implacably mutually hostile.

The most obvious physical feature of the Neanderthal people was their skull, with its heavy brow ridge and sloping forehead combined with a very large brain, yet the skull in this case is described as fragmentary. Is it really possible reliably to detect a hybrid individual primarily from limb bones, particularly when they are of an immature boy? The days are long gone when Neanderthals were thought to have had a shambling, stooping gait with bent long bones; these bones were very similar to ours, though somewhat more robust.

Even if the skeleton does prove to be a hybrid, can we be as confident as Professor Trinkaus and agree that this is not a one-off "love child" but a sign of a more general mixing of the sub-species? Portugal is a long way west from the northward land route through the Near East followed by Homo sapiens when he left Africa (according to one view) and may not be typical.

The stratigraphical evidence from several rock shelters in the Dordogne is well interpreted as showing clearly that, somewhat earlier, there was an abrupt replacement of the Neanderthals by physically modern people and this evidence is not altered by the new discovery.

Yours faithfully,
EUAN W. MacKIE
(Honorary research fellow),
Hunterian Museum,
University of Glasgow,
University Avenue,
Glasgow G12 8QQ.
April 22.

From Mr Shaun Taylor

Sir, The discovery of a skeleton of a young child, apparently with characteristics from both modern man and Neanderthals, is certainly a setback to the old theory that humans actively participated in the extinction of their cousins.

If the boy's skeleton is the offspring of an interbreeding of the two species the question remains, as your report suggests, as to why modern European DNA is not closer to Neanderthal DNA than DNA from other parts of the world.

Possibly, either the offspring of such couplings were sterile, as hybrid organisms frequently are, or the offspring were prone to die before they reached adulthood.

Yours faithfully,
SHAUN TAYLOR,
204 Hatters Lane, High Wycombe,
Buckinghamshire HP13 7LY.
April 21.

EU patron saint

From Professor Emeritus Edward Garden

Sir, St Cecilia should be the patron saint of the EU (letters, April 14, 21 and 28).

As the patron saint of music, which crosses all artificial, man-made boundaries, she could help to bring harmony to all the participating countries of the Union. Furthermore, is it not about time that we had a woman in such a position?

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD GARDEN,
91 Millhouses Lane,
Sheffield S7 2HD.
April 28.

Name of the game

From Mrs Angela Callaghan

Sir, You provided today two wonderful examples of people's names eminently fitting the jobs they do. In the Dr Stuttaford article on obesity we had a Professor Michael Lean pronouncing on weight management; and in Birthdays today, the Surveyor of the Fabric of Westminster Abbey has the charming name of Mr Donald Buttress.

This makes a lovely start to the day.

Yours faithfully,
ANGELA CALLAGHAN,
59a Lee Road, Blackheath SE3 9EN.
April 27.

A Mir Welshman?

From Mr Anthony Moorman

Sir, Peter Llewelyn, who is said to have agreed to pay for a week-long flight on the Mir space station (report, April 28), is described as a "space-mad Welshman" and as a successful "British businessman".

I wonder whether he will be "successful British businessman who buys trip to space" or "a Welshman who failed to buy space holiday"?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MOORMAN,
67a Boroughgate,
Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 1AG
April 28.



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 28: Mrs Mary Francis was received by The Queen upon relinquishing her appointment as Deputy Private Secretary when Her Majesty invested her with the Insignia of Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Queen was represented by the Hon Mary Morrison, Woman of the Bedchamber, at the Funeral of Mr Charles Martyn which was held at the Church of St Michael and All Angels, Hinton, Christchurch, today.

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 28: The Duke of Edinburgh this morning departed from Jedda for London.

His Royal Highness this afternoon arrived at RAF Northolt.

Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
April 28: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Patron, today received the President, the Lord Campbell of Alloway, and members of the Colditz Association.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 28: The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, this morning visited The Passage Day Centre, St Vincent's, Carlisle Place, London SW1.

His Royal Highness, President, Business in the Community, later attended the Seeing is Believing Homelessness Seminar.

The Prince of Wales this afternoon opened the Dudley Stationery Distribution Centre, holders of The Prince of Wales's Warrant, at Crown Close, Wick Lane, Bow, London.

His Royal Highness this afternoon received the Prime Minister.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 28: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, held a lunch at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron, Ocean Youth Trust, this afternoon met the outgoing Chairman, Mr Colin Sharman, and the incoming Chairman, Mr Alan Kingsley at Buckingham Palace.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 28: The Princess Royal this morning was received by President Mubarak at the Presidency, Heliopolis.

Her Royal Highness afterwards visited the Integrated Care Society, Heliopolis.

The Princess Royal subsequently visited the British Council, Heliopolis.

Her Royal Highness later visited the Association for the Protection of Environment (APE) project, Moqattam.

The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, this afternoon visited the Regional Office, Cairo.

Her Royal Highness afterwards attended a Reception at the British Council Head Office, Agouza.

The Princess Royal later visited Brooke Hospital for Animals, Zein Al-Abdein.

Her Royal Highness subsequently unveiled a plaque outside The British Embassy, Cairo, to mark the Embassy's refurbishment.

The Princess Royal this evening attended a Reception given by the British Ambassador to Egypt (Sir David Blatherwick) at the Residence.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 28: The Duke of Kent, Chairman of the Trustees, this morning attended a meeting with the Trustees and Canadian Members of The Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Group at Whitehead Mann, Hill Street, London W1.

His Royal Highness, Grand President, this afternoon attended the Annual Investiture of the United Grand Lodge of England at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London, followed by dinner at the Savoy Hotel.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
April 28: Princess Alexandra, Deputy Royal Honorary Colonel, this evening visited The Royal Yeomanry at The Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend a service of the Royal Victorian Order in St George's Chapel, Windsor. After the service the Queen will give a reception in the State Apartments, Windsor Castle, for members of the Order and Medallists.

The Prince of Wales will visit Sherborne School for Girls, Bradford Road, Sherborne, Dorset.

The Duke of York, president, will attend a reception for the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions at the National History Museum, London SW7, at 6.00.

For more details about the Royal Family visit the royal website at: www.royal.gov.uk

King Hussein of Jordan

A memorial service for King Hussein of Jordan will be held in St Paul's Cathedral at 11am on Monday, July 5. Admission will be by ticket only and those wishing to attend should apply in writing, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to: The Secretary, Anglo-Jordanian Society, 311 Lillie Road, London SW7 7LL. Tickets will be issued in June.

College of Chiropractors

Mr Timothy Jay, President of the College of Chiropractors, welcomed the guests at the official launch of the college held yesterday at the King's Fund, Cavendish Square. Sir Terence English, Baroness Fookes, Mr David Ashdown, Dr Lotte Newman and Lord Newton of Braintree also spoke.

Birthdays today

Mr Andre Agassi, tennis player, 29; Mr Frank Auerbach, painter, 68; Mr Jonah Barrington, squash player, 58; Mr Dean Bell, rugby league player, 37; Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, 57; Mr Tom Clarke, former Editor, *Sporting Life*, 60; Mr Daniel Day-Lewis, actor, 42; Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, 56; Mrs Ruth Deech, Principal, St Anne's College, Oxford, 56; General Sir Peter de la Billière, 65; Mr Lonnie Donegan, skiffle musician and singer, 68; the Earl of Effingham, 60; Mr D.S. Elliott, former director, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, 50; His Honour Israel Finestein, QC, former President, Board of Deputies of British Jews, 78; Dame Rennie Fritchie, former chairman, South and West Regional Health Authority, 57; Sir Patrick Hamill, former Chief Constable, Strathclyde, 69; Sir John Holmes, diplomat, 48; Sir Kenneth James, former diplomat, 73; Miss Zizi Jeanmaire, dancer, 75; Professor David Johns, former Vice-Chancellor, Bradford University, 68.

Sir Anthony Laughton, oceanographer, 72; Miss Elizabeth Lawson, QC, 52; Mr Rod McKuen, poet and composer, 66; Mr Zubin Mehta, conductor, 63; Mr Johnny Miller, golfer, 52; Mr A.W. Nicol, former chairman, South Western Electricity, 66; Sir Fraser Noble, Principal Emeritus, Aberdeen University, 81; Sir Ronald Norman, former chairman, Teesside Development Corporation, 62; General Sir Patrick Palmer, Constable and Governor of Windsor Castle, 66; Miss Michelle Pfeiffer, actress, 42; Professor B.D. Ripley, statistician, 47; Lord Rothschild, 63; Mr Jeremy Thorpe, former leader, Liberal Party, 70; Mr David Tindle, painter, 67; Professor Heinz Wolff, bioengineer, 71.

The night sky in May

By Michael J. Hendrie
Astronomy Correspondent

MERCURY is in the morning sky until superior conjunction on the 25th when it becomes an evening star but will be too near the Sun for observation.

Venus is a brilliant -4.2 magnitude evening star, not setting until shortly before midnight. Between mid-month and the 31st it crosses the main figure of Gemini to end May in line with Pollux and Castor, the three objects being almost equally spaced. Crescent Moon nearby on the 18th.

Mars is in Virgo moving westwards against the stars from night to night. Closest to the Earth on the 1st and -1.6 magnitude it fades to -1.1 by the 31st as the distance between the two planets increases. Mars sets about 02h by the 31st. Moon to the north on the 26th.

Jupiter is in Pisces and -2.1 magnitude rising by 02h by the end of May when it might be visible low in the east at dawn. Waning crescent Moon nearby on the 13th.

Saturn is Aries for the rest of the year but is too near the Sun for observation in May.

Uranus is in Capricornus and 5.7 magnitude, reaching a stationary point on the 22nd. It rises at midnight by end May. Moon nearby on the 8th. Neptune is also in Capricornus and a fainter 7.9 magnitude. Stationary on the 7th it rises less than an hour before Uranus. Moon nearby on the 7th.

The Moon: Last quarter 8d 17h, new Moon 15d 12h, first quarter 22d 06h, full Moon 30d 07h. Moon near to Regulus in Leo on the 21st. Sunset on the 1st is at 19h 25m and on the 31st at 20h 10m while sunrise is at 04h 30m and 03h 50m on the same dates. Astronomical twilight ends at 21h 55m and begins again at 02h 00m on the 1st. It lasts all night in the south (London) from May 20 until July 22 and in the north (Glasgow) from May 1 until early August.

As is widely known there will be a total eclipse of the Sun on the morning of August 11 this year, the first UK mainland total eclipse since 1927. The next is not until 2090, just before sunset! The path of totality crosses southern parts of Cornwall and Devon, Alderney, northern France and so across Europe and the Middle East to end in India. A partial solar eclipse will be visible widely on either side of this track and over the whole of the UK.

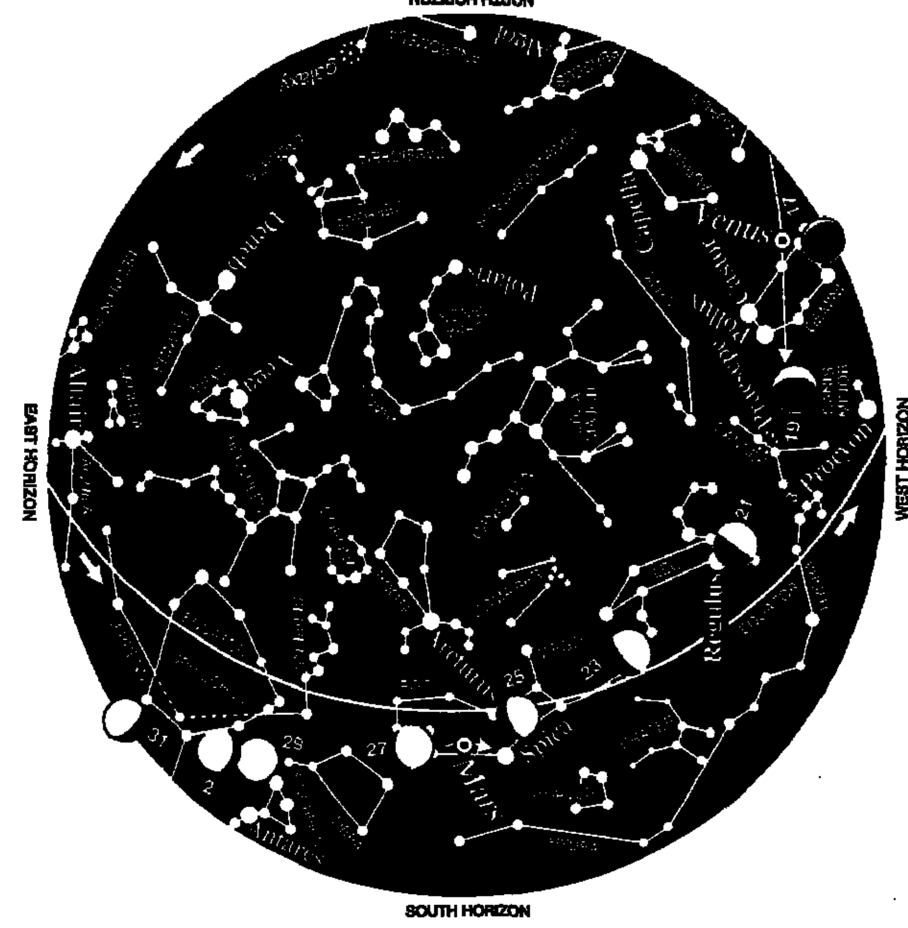
The timing of the event will be given nearer the date, but whether or not one intends to be situated within the band of totality on eclipse day, the Sun will be partially eclipsed both before and after mid-eclipse. On the centre line of the eclipse in the West Country totality will last only two minutes, while the partial phases will last about two hours and a half.

Only during the two minutes of totality is it safe to look directly at the Sun without protecting the eyes with special filters. Then the Sun's photosphere, the bright "surface" that we see normally and which gives us daylight, is hidden by the Moon and in a clear sky it is possible to see the bright red narrow rim of the chromosphere, and sometimes a few prominences projecting from the Sun's surface. Also visible should be the much fainter and more delicate corona which may extend several times the Sun's diameter. This very hot and diffuse gas is normally invisible to us without very special instruments, hidden by the scattered light from the much brighter photosphere. As the sky suddenly darkens to twilight conditions the brighter stars and planets can often be seen.

During totality nothing would be seen through a filter dense enough to protect the eyes from full sunlight. So it is only during the two minutes of totality that it is safe to look at the Sun without eye protection. At any other time it is unsafe to look directly at the Sun, except perhaps when it is very near the horizon and strongly reddened as at some sunsets. The fact that it is uncomfortable to look at the bright Sun enables us to go about our daily business: we just avoid staring at it automatically though it is shining up there a good part of the time. But when something interesting is happening there is the temptation to screw the eyes up and take a chance. Do not be tempted!

As most of us will want to follow the partial phases of the eclipse what can be done to make this safe? It is not only the bright visible wavelengths that can damage the sight. Some filter material may dim the Sun to a comfortable level of brightness but still allow dangerous ultra-violet and infrared wavelengths through. One will not see or feel these until damage has been done. It is even more dangerous to look through any instrument that collects more radiation than the eye, for example binoculars, a telescope or a camera viewfinder unless special filters are fitted over the Sun-facing lenses. Filters should never be put just over the eyepieces, the lenses closest to the eyes. Filters intended to be used with binoculars, telescopes and cameras must be obtained from a reliable source, be in good condition and be used under expert supervision.

There are safe ways of projecting the Sun's image on to a screen. Alternatively one can obtain one of the special safe filters that will reduce the Sun's glare to a comfortable level and screen out those invisible radiations. These can be in the form of cardboard spectacles. Next month I will suggest two ways of projecting the image and what to look for in obtaining suitable naked eye filters.



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23h (11 pm) at the beginning, 22h (10 pm) in the middle, and 21h (9 pm) at the end of the month, local mean time. At places away from the Greenwich meridian the Greenwich times at which the diagram applies are later than the above by one hour for each 15 deg west of Greenwich and earlier by a like amount if the place be east. The map should be turned so that the horizon the observer is facing (shown by the words around the circle) is at the bottom, the zenith being at the centre. Greenwich Mean Time, known to astronomers as Universal Time and expressed in 24-hour notation, is used in the accompanying notes.

School news

Eton College
The Fellows of Eton College are pleased to announce that The Queen has approved the appointment of Dr Eric Anderson to be Provost of Eton in succession to Sir Antony Acland who will retire in the summer of the year 2000.

Heathfield School, Ascot
Heathfield School, founded by Miss Eleanor Beatrice Wyatt in 1899, celebrates its centenary in May. A stained glass window in the school chapel, designed and made by Patrick and John Reyntiens, is to be dedicated at Evensong on Sunday, May 9. A Celebration Eucharist will be held at St Augustine's, Queen's Gate, London at 2pm on Ascension Day, Thursday, May 13. Sister Veronica Ann, SSC (Ann Fellowes, at Heathfield from 1933-1940) will give an address. Centenary Fellowship Day for Old Girls will be held at Heathfield on Saturday, May 15, when a marquee lunch will be followed by Evensong conducted by the Rev Brian Pugh, Chaplain at Heathfield from 1988-1995. On Sunday, May 16, all parents have been invited to the school for Sports Day when there will be a dedication of the Foundation Stone for the indoor swimming pool complex to be built as a result of the Centenary Fund-Raising Campaign and opened in the summer of 2000.

Luncheons

HM Government
Mr George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, was the host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at Lancaster House in honour of Mr John Moore, Australian Minister for Defence.

ILEX
Mr Peter Wheeler was the guest speaker the annual presidential luncheon of the Institute of Legal Executives (ILEX) held yesterday at Saddlers' Hall. Mr Paul T. Reed, president, was in the chair. Among those present were:

The Lord Mayor of Westminster, the Master of the Rolls, Lord Clinton-Davis, Lord Hacking, Lord Thomas of Gresford, QC, Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, MP, the Attorney General, the Solicity General, the Senior Master of the Supreme Court, Queen's Bench Division and Queen's Remembrancer, the Chief Master of the Supreme Court Taxing Office, the Chief Chancery Master, the High Sheriff of Greater London, the Chairman of the General Council of the Bar, the President of the Law Society.

The Federation of Environmental Trade Associations
Sir Clement Freud was the guest speaker at the annual luncheon of the Federation of Environmental Trade Associations held yesterday at The Brewery, Chiswell Street, London. Mr Graham Garner, President of the British Refrigeration Association, was in the chair.

Carlton Club
The Earl of Stockton, Mr Giles Chichester, MEP, and Mrs Angela Harvey were among the speakers at a luncheon of the Carlton Club Political Committee held yesterday at the club. Mr Simon Mabey, chairman, presided. Mr Fred Tuckman also spoke.

Mid-Atlantic Club
Baron Bernard Snoy, Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Belgium, Luxembourg and Slovenia, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Mid-Atlantic Club held yesterday at Dartmouth House. Sir Peter Marshall, Chairman of the Joint Commonwealth Societies Council, presided.

Antiquaries of London

The following have been elected officers of the Society of Antiquaries of London:

President, Mr S.S. Jervis; Treasurer, Dr D.F. Renn; Director, Mr A.G. MacGregor; Secretary, Mrs S.M. Youngs.

The Society Medal has been awarded to Mr Howell Harris Hughes and the Frend Medal to Dr Marlia Mango.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Arbuthnot, physician, Arbuthnott, Kincardineshire, 1667; Sir James Brooke, Rajah of Sarawak 1841-68, Benares, 1803; Thomas Trollope, writer, Bloomsbury, 1810; Alexander II, Tsar of Russia 1855-81, St Petersburg, 1818; William Randolph Hearst, newspaper proprietor, San Francisco, 1865; Sir Thomas Beecham, conductor, St Helens, Lancashire, 1879; Sir Malcolm Sargent, conductor, Ashford, Kent, 1895; Duke Ellington, pianist and bandleader, Washington, 1899; Michinomiya Hirohito, Emperor of Japan 1926-89, Tokyo, 1901.

DEATHS: John Cleveland, Royalist poet, London, 1658; Sir Alfred Hitchcock, film director-producer, Los Angeles, 1980.

Women were granted permission to sit examinations at Oxford, 1885.

A telephone link was established between Britain and Australia, 1930.

British Aerospace was founded, 1977.

Meeting

Atlantic Council
Mr Alan Lee Williams, Director of the Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom, was the speaker at a meeting of the Atlantic Treaty Association held yesterday at Atlantic House. Members of the Diplomatic Corps and fellows and members of the council were present.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.R. Clark and Miss L. Bingham
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Robin Clark, of Compton Bassett, Wiltshire, and Lara, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Bingham, of Tavistock, Devonshire.

Dr I.T. Cook and Miss I.V. Gravett
The engagement is announced between Ian Taylor, elder son of Mr and Mrs W.T. Cook, of Stannington, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, and Isabel Véronique, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs R.I. Gravett, of Woking, Surrey.

Viscount Cranley and Miss L. Jones-Fenleigh
The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of the Earl and Countess of Onslow, of Temple Court, Clandon Park, and Leigh, eldest daughter of Mrs Patricia Jones-Fenleigh, of Oakham, Rutland, and the late Edward James Jones-Fenleigh.

Mr A.R. Cross and Miss F.A. Miller Mundy
The engagement is announced between Andrew, only son of Mr and Mrs Harold Cross, of Waipukerau, New Zealand, and Flora, daughter of Mr Andrew Miller Mundy and Mrs Bridget Miller Mundy, of Harris, Western Isles.

Dr J.D. Cundall and Miss J.M. Kent
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr John Cundall, of Sherburn, and Mrs Zeila Cundall, of Acklam, North Yorkshire, and Jane, daughter of Mr John Kent and Mrs Mary Kent, of Stafford.

Mr J.A. Gardner and Miss H.R. Holmes Daykin
The engagement is announced between Jed Alan Gardner, of East Sussex, and Helena Ruth Holmes Daykin, of Yorkshire, both now of London.

Mr M.J.H. Gault and Miss A.E. Wherry
The engagement is announced between Marcus, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Gault, of Heathfield, East Sussex, and Amy, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Wherry, of Market Deeping, Lincolnshire.

Mr D.J. Hennessy and Miss A.J.C. Hall
The engagement is announced between Dominic, son of Mr and Mrs John Hennessy, of Wokingham, Berkshire, and Antonia, younger daughter of Captain and Mrs John Hall, of Long Sutton, Somerset.

Mr I.J. Gilmour and Miss C.J. Longfield
The engagement is announced between James, son of the late Dr James Gilmour and of Mrs Gilmour, of Colwall, Hereford and Worcester, and Charlotte, youngest daughter of Brigadier and Mrs Desmond Longfield, of Paccombe Farm House, Downton, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Mr A.W. Greville-Collins and Miss H.C. Greaves
The engagement is announced between Adam, son of Mr Warwick Greville-Collins, of Roujan, France, and the late Mrs Patricia Greville-Collins, and Henrietta, daughter of Mr and Mrs Guy (Podge) Greaves, of Esher, Surrey.

Mr M. Griffiths and Miss C.A. Fidler
The marriage will take place in Pyrford, Surrey, on June 19, 1999, of Matthew, son of Dr and Mrs Andrew Griffiths, of Chiswick, London, and Charlotte Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Fidler, of Pyrford.

Mr S. Leonard-Morgan and Miss S. Nash
The engagement is announced between Scott, elder son of Mr and Mrs C.J. Leonard-Morgan, of Bromley, Kent, and Samantha, daughter of Mrs Bea Nash, of Cobham, Surrey.

Mr C.W. Moyle and Miss J.C. Franklin
The engagement is announced between Charles, elder son of Mr and Mrs W.D. Moyle, of Ombersley, Worcestershire, and Joanna, younger daughter of Lieutenant Colonel A.W. Franklin, of Charlton, West Sussex.

Lord Sudeley and Mrs M. Kellett
The engagement is announced between Lord Sudeley, of Marylebone, London, and Mrs Margarita Kellett, of Kingsclere, Hampshire.

Marriage

Mr C.D.M. Boyd and Miss J.S. Percy
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 24, 1999, at St Cuthbert's Parish Church, Edinburgh, between Mr Charles Boyd, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Boyd, of Haslemere, Surrey, and Miss Jill Percy, elder daughter of Professor and Mrs Ian Percy, of Edinburgh. The Rev Tom Cuthell officiated.

Dinners

Speaker
The Speaker gave a dinner last night at Speaker's House in honour of Mr Ivar Hansen, Speaker of the Folketing. The Danish Ambassador was present. The other guests were:

Mr Tom Clarke, MP, Mrs Irene Adams, MP, Mrs Jackie Ballard, MP, Mr Roy Beggs, MP, Mr Clive Betts, MP, Viscount Craigavon, Mr Jim Dowd, MP, Mr Neil Gerrard, MP, Mr Christopher Gill, MP, Mr Nick Harvey, MP, Sir Alan Haselhurst, MP, Miss Anne McIntosh, MP, Dr Nick Palmer, MP, Mrs Joan Ruddock, MP, Miss Debra Shipley, MP, Mr Alan Simpson, MP, Miss Rachel Squire, MP, Mr David Winnick, MP, Mrs Ann Winterton, MP, Mr Nicholas Winterton, MP, Mr Ole Stig Andersen, Mr Jeremy Cresswell, Mrs Bente Dalsback, Mr William McKay, Miss Sarah Riley, Mrs Mayann Sharp, Mr Jens Adser Sørensen, Mr Robert Wilson, Canon Robert Wright and Mr Nicolas Bevan.

Air Force Board
Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, Chief of the Air Staff, presided at a dinner given by the Air Force Board Standing Committee last night at RAF Bentley Priory to mark the retirement of the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Headquarters Strike Command, Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison, and Air Marshal Sir Colin Terry, Air Member for Logistics. Lady Allison, Lady Terry and Air Marshals and their ladies were among those present.

Foundation for Science and Technology
Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman of the Council of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion held at the Royal Society last night. Lord Tombs, Mr Peter Beck and Professor John Durant were the speakers.

Shipwrights' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Shipwrights' Company for the ensuing year:

Prime Warden, Mr Peter Tudball; Renter Warden, Dr T. John Parker; Third Warden, Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherall; Fourth Warden, Mr David Cobb; Fifth Warden, Mr Alastair Farley.

Company of World Traders

The following have been elected officers of the Company of World Traders for the ensuing year:
Master, Alderman Sir Roger Cork; Senior Warden, Miss Susan Hughes; Junior Warden, Mr Bryan Whalley.

University news

Leicester
The following will receive honorary degrees from Leicester University in July:
Mr Tim Appleton, Master of Science;
Professor Dame Gillian Beer, Doctor of Letters;
Dr Philip Campbell, Doctor of Science;
Dr Ken Edwards, Doctor of Laws;
Professor Fred Leckie, Doctor of Science;
Mr Chris Moon, Master of Laws;
Professor Sir Keith Peters, FRS, Doctor of Science;
Mr Raymond Seitz, Doctor of Laws;
Sir Richard Sykes, FRS, Doctor of Science;
Professor Sir Tony Wrigley, FBA, Doctor of Letters.

PERSONAL COLUMN

"My food," Jesus said to them, "is to obey the will of the one who sent me and to finish the work he gave me to do." John 4.34 (GNB).

BIRTHS

CHERRUY - On April 2nd, Good Friday, in France, to Amanda (née Brutton) and Franck, a son, Loïck James, a brother for Laura and Lisa.

COE - On April 24th at The Portland Hospital, to Theresa Malin and William, a daughter, Breanna.

CORLEY - On 24th April, to Claire (née Woodrow) and David, a daughter, Sophie Alexandra, a sister for George.

COPE - On 24th April 1999 at The Rosie Hospital, Cambridge, to Caroline (née Swinburne) and David, a son, Oliver David.

DE MEESTER - On April 25th at The Portland Hospital, to Angeline (née Burne) and Charles, a son, Chester Floris, a brother for Daisy.

GOW - On Monday April 26th, to Sarah (née Amos) and James, a son, Alexander Ian.

GOZZER - On 27th April 1999 at The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

BIRTHS

LOCKHART - On April 25th, 1999, to Lucy (née Lloyd) and Crispin, a son, Oliver Brian.

MAIDMENT - On April 25th 1999, to Louise (née Harry Thomas) and Nail, a son, James Eric Harry.

MAYES - On April 26th 1999, to Laura (née Buchanan) and James, a son, Angus Alexander, a brother for Hugo.

NEWMAN - On March 31st at Lewisham Hospital, to Anne (née Czarnowski) and Peter, a daughter, Victoria Anne, a sister for Jonathan.

PULLEN-FREILICH - On April 26th at The Portland Hospital, to Karli Pullen and Michael Freilich, a son, Felix Augustus, a brother for Louis.

SERPEN - On April 20th at The Portland Hospital, to Sensu (née Ciliz) and Emre, a daughter, Ela and a son, Hakan.

SINGH - On April 26th at The Portland Hospital, to Monita and Ranjit, a daughter, Ruhika, a sister for Rajvir.

von SCHMIDT - On April 22nd to Sarah (née Fatchen) and Robin, a beautiful daughter, Isabella Claire.

WESTERN-KAYE - On 27th April 1999, to Katy (née Armitage) and Nick, a son, George Laurence, a brother for Jemima.

WOLRIGE GORDON - On 21st April 1999, to Sarah (née Edwards) and Patrick, a son, Robert Patrick.

DEATHS

BARNES - David, on 27th April, aged 72 at home. Dearly loved husband, father, stepfather, grandfather. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving in Chelford Parish Church on Friday 7th May at 2.45pm. No flowers please. Donations if desired to Cancer Research, c/o J A Whiston, King Street, Knutsford, WA16 6DW.

BURGESS - Dennis Edward completed a happy life on St Georges Day, 23rd April 1999. Beloved husband of Gillis and a staunch friend, he died aged 67 after a brief illness borne with courage. Funeral has taken place. He will be greatly missed.

COLEMAN - Margaret, beloved wife of Noel Coleman, loving mother to Rupert, Camilla and Jolyon Bates and adoring grandmother to Angharad, Matilda, Bonella, Morgan and Atalanta, died after a long illness on 27th April 1999. Funeral Service at Putney Vale Crematorium on Tuesday 4th May at 2.15pm. Flowers to Mears and Cotterill, 167-169 Merton Road, Wandsworth, SW18 5EF. Donations to the P.S.P. Association, The Old Rectory, Wappenham, Towcester, NN12 8SQ.

DEATHS

DERBY - Richard Outram Walker peacefully at home on April 23rd aged 58. Much loved husband of Anthea and father of Edward, Amanda, Henrietta and stepfather of Nell and Angus. Funeral on Monday May 10th at East Pennard Church, Shepton Mallet, Somerset at 3 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for the Countryside Alliance or the British Heart Foundation c/o Forsey & Son F/D, 28 High Street, Butleigh, Glastonbury, Somerset.

DRAKE - On 27th April 1999 suddenly and peacefully at home Capt. Denis J.E. of Hurst, Berkshire. Friend and husband of Annette, much loved father of Tim and Rupert. Rest in peace. Funeral arrangements c/o R. Aubrey Miles & Sons Funeral Directors, Wokingham, (0118) 979 7004.

DYSON - Frederick George on Sunday April 25th 1999 at Eastbourne Hospital. Funeral at Eastbourne Crematorium on Wednesday May 5th at 3pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired to RNLI.

EDWARDS - Dr John Ffoulkes peacefully at home on 22nd April 1999, in his 92nd year. He will be sadly missed by Norman, Erica, Paul, Viv and Winnie and their families. Funeral service to be held at Oxford Crematorium, on Thursday 29th April at 3.00pm. Floral tributes and enquiries to R & H Barker, 40 Wantage Road, Didcot. 01235 510033.

FRASER - Colonel James Andrew Fraser, M.C., suddenly but peacefully at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness on Tuesday 27th April 1999, much loved husband of Pamela and loving father and grandfather. Funeral service and interment at St Ninian's Episcopalian Church, Glenurquhart on Tuesday 4th May 1999 at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired at service for Highland Hospice or forwarded to the Funeral Directors: John Fraser & Son, 17/29 Chapel Street, Inverness.

GILL - Rachel Lucy, dearly loved daughter of David and Joy, died after a tragic accident on April 22nd aged 34. Private cremation at Mortlake Crematorium 11.00am on Thursday May 6th followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Richmond Parish Church, 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Shooting Star Trust Appeal for a proposed childrens hospice. Both c/o T H Sanders & Sons, 28-30 Kew Road, Richmond TW9 2NA.

HICKIE - On 28th April, Brigadier William Shamus Francis OBE, late King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry of Slevyre, Terryglass, Co. Tipperary, peacefully aged 91 years. Beloved husband of Pauline and much loved father of William, Jane and A.G. and grandfather of Christopher, Martin, James and Rose. Devotedly cared for at Elmgrove Nursing Home, Birr. Funeral at Terryglass at 11am on Saturday 1st May. No flowers. Donations if wished to the Red Cross. R.I.P.

MAPP - Thomas Henry, on 26th April peacefully at home aged 72 after a brave struggle with Motor Neurone Disease and finally a stroke. Darling husband of Sue and much loved father of Stephen, Kate and Joel and Grandpa of James and George. Funeral at St Brides, Fleet Street, London at 12 noon on Friday 7th May followed by reception at St Brides Institute, private family cremation. Family flowers only, but donations if desired, to MND Association, PO Box 246, Northampton NN1 2PR.

MILNE-WATSON - Sir Michael. Suddenly in hospital on 27th April 1999. Much loved father and grandfather. A service of Thanksgiving will be held at Grazeley Parish Church on Friday May 7th at 2.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations to MacMillan Nurses c/o Geoffrey Church & Co, Tadley. Tel 0118 981 4420.

ROGERS - Tony MBE. Died suddenly on Monday, April 26th, 1999, aged 63. Will be loved always by his wife Dawn, dearest girls Kylie and Jules, and greatly missed. Funeral at St Mildred's Church, Tenterden, Kent on Friday, May 7th at 1 pm. Donations in lieu of flowers to Kent Cricket Board (Youth Development Scheme) or British Diabetic Association c/o T.W. Fuggle & Son, 20 Ashford Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6QU.

SANDEMAN - On April 22nd 1999, peacefully at Torbay Hospital, the Reverend Canon Arthur Alastair Malcolm Sandeman, son of the late Major M G Sandeman, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and Mrs H M Sandeman. Much loved uncle and great uncle and friend and counsellor to many. Funeral service at All Saints Church, Babbacombe, at 12 noon on Friday 7th May, followed by interment at St Mary's Church, Kingskerswell. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, for the RNLI, Torbay Branch, may be sent to Maunders Funeral Service, 27 Well Street, Paignton, Devon. May he rest in peace.

SMITH-CARINGTON - On April 27th 1999 peacefully in hospital Philip Smith-Carington aged 75 years. The beloved Brother of John and Noreen, adored Uncle of Shiona, loved and respected Great-Uncle of Alexander and Petrina. Private family funeral. Service of Thanksgiving in London to be announced.

STALLYBRASS - Margaret Rosa (Margo) née Bigland. On April 28th peacefully in her 87th year at Kings College Hospital. Beloved wife of Bill, mother of Andrew and Peter and mother-in-law of Eliane and Annie. Family cremation at 11.00am Saturday May 1st at West Norwood Crematorium. Memorial Service same day at 2.00pm at All Saints Church, Rosendale Road, West Dulwich. Flowers to James W Constable F/D, 55 Honor Oak Park, Forest Hill, London SE23 1EA. Tel: 0181 291 0811.

STOODLEY - Mary Ellen (née Thomas, "Nell"). Much loved by son, Brian and Monica and beloved gran of Katy, Penny, Charity, Angharad and Christabel, died peacefully on April 25th aged 98. Funeral Service: 2 pm Tuesday May 4th at St Michael and All Angels Church, Berwick. Donations to R.N.L.I. or flowers to Haine & Co., South Street, Eastbourne.

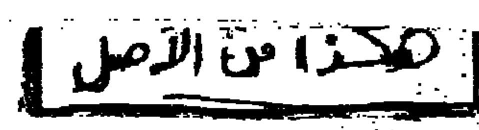
SUTCH - Barbara on 27th April at Overbury House, Norfolk, wife of the late Cecil Moore, mother to Pamela and Richard, grandmother of Tanya and David. Funeral Service on Friday 30th April at 9.30am at St Faiths Crematorium. Family flowers only but donations in lieu for R.N.L.I. may be sent to Broadland Funeral Services, 102 Norwich Road, Wroxham, Norwich NR12 8RY.

TOOBY - Rita, peacefully 21st April. Greatly loved and missed by her extensive fan club. Funeral 3.15pm, 10th May, Reading Crematorium. No flowers please. Donations, Amnesty International.

WHITE - Françoise, formerly Rigby, on April 26th 1999 peacefully at Oxford Beaumont Nursing Home. Funeral Directors Reeves and Pain, tel 01865 242529.

WANTED

TICKETS FOR SALE



MAJOR-GENERAL J. M. H. LEWIS



Mike Lewis: sapper with artistic interests

Major-General J. M. H. Lewis, CBE, wartime sapper and staff officer, died on March 6 aged 79. He was born on April 5, 1919.

AFTER a varied war, in which he took part in the planning of Chindit operations in Burma, Mike Lewis found himself in the early 1950s involved in the largest building project ever undertaken by the British Army. This was the construction in Germany of a new headquarters for Northern Army Group at Rheindalen, near Mönchengladbach.

Joint Headquarters — JHQ for short — was designed to accommodate not only units of the British Army of the Rhine, but also German and Dutch elements of the army group. Since Germany was the most important Cold War posting for the British Army, it required the construction of what amounted to a small town to house 9,000 families of serving military personnel. When it was completed, to drive through the barrier at Rheindalen was to pass out of the countryside of the Lower Rhine plain into an English small town atmosphere, complete with red-brick houses, familiarly named streets, shops and neatly trimmed civic flowerbeds.

The site at Rheindalen had been virgin woodland at the end of 1952 when work began, yet the whole complex was ready by July 1954. During these two years Lewis was principal staff officer to the chief engineer in charge of the venture, Colonel Harry Grattan, who had rebuilt Quetta after the earthquake of 1935. Lewis was appointed OBE for his work on the project.

John Michael Hardwicke Lewis was the son of Brigadier Sir Clinton Lewis, a sapper who became Surveyor-General of India. He went from Oundle to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, from where he was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1939.

In 1940, being a highly proficient skier, he resigned his commission to serve as a guardsman with the 5th Battalion Scots Guards, a special unit in which all members had to be able to fight on skis. It was raised to support the Finnish Army against the Soviet Union which had invaded Finland in November 1939. But before the unit could sail the Finns had been defeated and Lewis returned to the life of a sapper officer.

Later in 1940 he joined the 18th Division, which was sent to Singapore. In February 1942, a few days before the fall of Singapore, he was one of the few selected to escape in the very limited shipping available. Selection was based on the potential usefulness of the individuals to the war effort elsewhere.

After a hazardous journey via Sumatra and Java, with the Japanese never far behind, the party requisitioned a flat-bottomed Chinese river steamer and with a scratch crew set off for Ceylon. They arrived safely despite three near-misses by Japanese torpedoes.

Lewis was next sent to India to Wingate's Chindit headquarters. There, and later in Burma, he was involved in planning special forces operations until the war ended.

After the construction of JHQ in Germany he served as second in command of 22 Engineers Regiment in Tripoli, after which he had two years as Commander Royal Engineers in Gibraltar. There, helped by his wife Barbara, he devoted his spare time to the historic library, which had been founded by Pitt the Younger, and is housed in a fine Georgian building. Neglect had led to serious deterioration of valuable books, and Lewis set about getting the library into good order and arranged the installation of air-conditioning to prevent further damage.

Among his later jobs were two years on the international military staff of Nato, based in the Pentagon, which gave him an insight into the differences in the approach to defence problems taken by the Americans, French, Germans and other Nato allies. His final appointment was as Assistant Chief of Staff (Intelligence) at SHAPE. There, in the words of a contemporary, "He managed the usual tightrope of relations with the Americans and Canadians on the one hand, and the European members on the other, with singular skill and grace." He had been advanced to CBE in 1970 and retired in 1975.

In retirement Lewis devoted himself to his interest in art, which stemmed from his coming from a family which had produced five generations of professional artists. He published three books: *Michiel Marieschi: Venetian Artist* (1967); *J. F. Lewis, RA, 1805-1876* (1978); and *The Lewis Family: Art and Travel* (1992).

The study of J. F. Lewis led to his being invited to address the Royal Academy. He was also a regular lecturer for the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies. From time to time, too, his views were sought by auction houses and by scholars.

Mike Lewis is survived by his wife Barbara, and three sons.

GEOFFREY WIGODER

Geoffrey Wigoder, author and encyclopaedist, died in Jerusalem on April 9 aged 76. He was born in Leeds on August 3, 1922.

GEOFFREY WIGODER was part of the small Anglo-Jewish elite who went to the newly founded state of Israel in the late 1940s to help to shape its intellectual and professional life. In Jerusalem he teamed up with his Oxford mentor, the Anglo-Jewish historian Cecil Roth, to make his mark as an encyclopaedist. They produced the one-volume, 2,000-page *New Standard Jewish Encyclopaedia*, which remains an indispensable companion for students of the Holy Land. Ten years later, in 1966, they set to work on the 16-volume *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, one of the major Jewish cultural achievements of this century.

In each case Wigoder started as Roth's deputy, but on his death in 1970 he took over as editor-in-chief. For the *Encyclopaedia Judaica* he scoured the world for experts on the most abstruse reaches of Jewish learning. He marshalled an army of 1,800 contributors who ranged from a rabbi in Puerto Rico to a member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia. The *Encyclopaedia* is on the shelves of every academic and many a suburban and provincial general library.

He came well primed to the task. Geoffrey Bernard Wigoder was the son of a dental surgeon in Leeds, a first-generation immigrant from Lithuania. He went to Leeds Grammar School, and moved from there to study medieval Jewish history at Trinity College Dublin. After gaining his MA, he went on to Oxford to do a doctorate.

With that he joined the Jewish Theological Seminary, the conservative rabbinic training college in New York. The establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 and his chance meeting at the seminary at about that time with a young lady called Devorah McDwyer cut short his ambition to be a rabbi.

After marriage the couple settled in Jerusalem where Wigoder's first job was in the English department of the Israel Broadcasting Corporation. He soon took charge of all its overseas operations, became a BBC correspondent and wrote for *The Yorkshire Post*.

To supplement his salary, Wigoder joined the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and set up its oral history department, as well as becoming director of Israel's Film Archive on Mount Scopus (his personal collection of films and videos ran into thousands).

After the *Encyclopaedia* was published, he went on writing scholarly works, such as *Jewish Art and Civilisation*, *The Story of the Synagogue* and *Jewish Christian Relations in World War II*, as well as newspaper columns for *The Yorkshire Post*, *The Jerusalem Post* and many others. He also helped to found the Israel Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv.



In his late sixties he ducked retirement and set out to carve a new career for himself in Christian-Jewish relations. He was a regular contributor to the Catholic weekly *The Tablet*, and only last year he gave the Cardinal Bea Lecture in London.

As a companion he was fun as well as formidable. And he remained at heart an expat Briton, reading *The Times* every day, sending cuttings from it back home to his sister, the actress Thelma Ruby, and refusing to go bed on a Saturday night without news of that day's result from Leeds United.

His wife survives him, along with two sons.

AL HIRT

Al Hirt, trumpeter, died on April 27 aged 76. He was born on November 7, 1922.

Like his fellow-horn player Harry James, Al Hirt was a formidable and versatile technician who found a lucrative niche in showbusiness. Relucant even to accept the label of jazz musician, he preferred to describe himself as a "pop commercial" performer. Based in his native New Orleans, he remained a talismanic figure in "Dixieland" jazz, a style which continues to attract a huge following without much in the way of media coverage.

His club, Bourbon St South, was for many years one of the city's landmarks. Hirt played for thousands of visitors intent on discovering something of the roots of the Big Easy's musical heritage. When he pulled down the shutters for the last time in 1983, blaming the rising crime rate for a fall in the number of tourists, he found himself at the centre of controversy, and subsequently apologised to the mayor over the tone of his remarks. Nevertheless, he continued to perform at venues in the French Quarter, and when Pope John Paul II visited the city four years later, it fell to Hirt to play *Ave Maria* in his honour.

The son of a policeman, Alois Maxwell Hirt studied at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, a grounding which stood him in good stead in later years, when he recorded a Haydn Trumpet Concerto with Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops Orchestra.

Nicknamed "Jumbo", he was a physically imposing individual. His powerful attack is said to have been the result of learning to play a pawnshop trumpet which had been damaged during makeshift repairs and which as a result required exceptional lung power.

An admirer of Harry James and Roy Eldridge, Hirt played in swing bands after serving in the Army. He went on to work with Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey and Ray McKinley, among others, before deciding to return to New Orleans. Traditional jazz was enjoying a revival at this point, and along with the clarinettist Pete



Al Hirt performing at a music festival in Kansas City in 1963

Fountain, Hirt began to build a strong following. In the early years, however, he and Fountain made ends meet by taking day jobs as exterminators with the A & M pest control company. Their partnership continued on and off for decades after Fountain settled into his own club at the Hilton.

Hirt's transition to national fame at the end of the Fifties included appearances on the immensely popular *Lawrence Welk Show* on TV and regular bookings in the high-paying lounges of Las Vegas. By 1961 he was performing at the inauguration of President Kennedy.

He enjoyed spectacular sales as a solo artist on discs such as *Horn A-Plenty*, and was also regularly paired with performers as varied as Ann-Margret. *Honey in the Horn*, released in 1963, reached No 3 in *Billboard*'s album charts that year. His debut at Carnegie Hall two years later yielded another successful recording, by which time he had also veered towards the country market with his hit *Java*.

In 1970 he suffered a lip injury — always a serious problem for a trumpeter — when he was apparently struck by a brick during a Mardi Gras parade. It was some months before his playing returned in all its vigour.

Defiantly unfashionable, Hirt had an indirect hand in nurturing what has become the most famous dynasty in jazz — the Marsalis clan of New Orleans. The pianist Ellis Marsalis was a member of Hirt's band in the Sixties, and it was during an engagement at Bourbon St South that Hirt — seated at a table with two greats, Miles Davis and Clark Terry — gave Marsalis's young son, Wynton, his first trumpet. Wynton Marsalis later recalled that Davis told Hirt: "Don't give it to him. Trumpet's too difficult an instrument for him to learn."

Hirt and his first wife, the late Mary Patureau Hirt, had eight children. He leaves a widow, Beverly.

ROLAND HUNT

Roland Hunt, CMG, diplomat, died on March 24 aged 83. He was born on March 19, 1916.

ROLAND HUNT's career spanned the turbulent period of the ending of the British Empire and the beginning of the Commonwealth. He served in many parts of the world, and his experiences ranged from trying to prevent the island of Anguilla from breaking away from St Kitts and Nevis to commentating on cricket in Pakistan.

Roland Charles Colin Hunt was born in his grandparents' Highgate house, shortly after his father's capture on the Western Front. He and his two brothers were brought up in an austere Oxford home where his mother ran a very tight ship; even her knitted socks could be found stored and labelled ("Roland 1925"). After the war, his father became an inspector of schools in Oxfordshire.

The Hunt boys were educated at the Dragon School, where Roland revelled in classics, cricket, music and acting: as Laertes he scored an unscripted victory over Hamlet when the graveside fight led to the Prince's retirement with a bloody nose. He went on to Rugby with a scholarship, continued to act, and toured Scandinavia in Shakespeare. He then won a scholarship to The Queen's College, Oxford, where his curly hair moved one elderly don to regret that Hunt was not a girl.

In 1938 Hunt joined the Indian Civil Service, then spending a year on "Empire Studies" at Oxford, which encompassed horse-riding in the Parks, but no political education beyond talk about troublemakers hoping for independence. Hunt realised that a career in India was likely to be brief, and when war broke out he applied to join up but was told that governing India was more important. Accordingly he was shipped out, followed in a highly irregular manner by his wife Pauline, whom he had married that September.

His career in India was indeed foreshortened, lasting until 1947. He enjoyed his spell at the hill station Coonoor where the tigers still roamed, though his work as a collector meant sometimes going down into gardens to collect the taxes hidden in holes in the ground. But by 1946-47, Hunt was in the Secretariat in Madras, living in a spacious house overlooking the Adyar River and trying to ensure that the supply failures which had caused the great famine were not repeated.

Leaving India, he entered the Commonwealth Relations Office and was sent to South Africa, where he helped to negotiate the Simonstown Treaty, which secured collaboration between Britain and South Africa after the withdrawal of the Royal Navy from its base there. In his final report home in 1955, he forecast that the apartheid regime would not survive for long.

Malaya was one of the few Commonwealth countries to gain independence in the 1950s. As Deputy High Commissioner there, Hunt struck up such a good relationship with the Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, that when Benjamin Britten's entry to the competition for a new national anthem arrived, the Tunku descended upon his cottage and insisted that Hunt play it on the piano.

Agreeing that it would not do, they tentatively proposed some modifications and returned the score to Britten. No more was heard, and a local dance tune was chosen instead.

In 1962 Hunt returned to



Pakistan as Deputy High Commissioner, working particularly with British companies involved in civil engineering projects, and trying to ease Indo-Pakistan relations, which blew up into another war in 1965.

In that year he became High Commissioner in Uganda, where relations between the Prime Minister, Milton Obote, and the Kabaka of Buganda — "King Freddie" — were dangerously tense. Unfortunately, the Kabaka made a public visit to the High Commissioner's residence to appeal for British succour for his regime, making it seem that Hunt supported his cause. As a result the Kabaka was exiled to Britain, where he died after completing his memoir *The Desecration of My Kingdom*.

On his return to Whitehall in 1967, having been appointed CMG, Hunt worked on what were then less controversial issues, such as Caribbean banana quotas and relations between the Falkland Islands and Argentina.

He was made High Commissioner in Trinidad in 1970, and enjoyed a peaceful period in this final posting until 1973. He and his wife had a special way of hosting parties anywhere in the world, usually with music and acting games, and preferably coinciding with the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race.

His wife died in 1989. He is survived by three sons and two daughters.

ON THIS DAY

April 29, 1925

A typical "feature" of prewar days when there were no pictures, and no double column headings to embellish articles on nature, fashion, gardening, motoring, science and so forth.

THE SALMON POOL

SPRING has been late this year, cold and wet. Even by mid-April the alder buds were little more than buds, and only the primroses, which grow so quickly on the red sandstone, and the anemones, and the colour of the buds not yet unfolded, show that it is spring and not winter. And all the time violent showers of rain and sleet.

To the salmon fisher the rain is at once a blessing and a curse. The usual cold, dry, bright Easter means no water, either no fish, or fish which will not rise. Therefore it was a pleasure to see the full river. But, alas! if it once begins to rain the habit, like other bad habits, is apt to continue. So, when the river is falling and clearing, and one hugs oneself at the thought of the sport to come, it again rains heavily on the hills, the river rises again and colours, the fish start once more on their upward journey, and there is no take till the water falls again — which may be when the fisherman has gone sadly back to London.

Still and all, the rain, though it came down capriciously and spoiled what might have been a record, did give us three days of glorious sport. And it gave us what is the essence of salmon fishing, the sense of fighting with the elements, which makes February and March fishing so attractive, but which is often denied to the Easter fisherman. Your dry-fly man wants as little wind as possible — the trout must be approached with delicacy and accuracy — the day must be calm and bright.

But the salmon is a mighty, fierce fish, and half the pleasure in pursuing him is the sense of power with which the heavy rod forces the fly over the tumbling river into the wind, exactly to the place where it should go. Therefore, if he gets three days out of ten when the water is right, if the fish are taking, and if the fight with the elements leads to victory, the salmon fisher is a happy man.

The first pool is fished more by routine than with hope of success. It used to be good, but the bank has fallen in, and not many fish have been caught there lately. We do not spend much time on it, but shuffle as quickly as we can in our waders to the second, a small pool called, oddly enough, the Luggage Pool, because (as is carefully explained) "some collegians who were camping out on the bank once lost all their luggage there." It is difficult wading among the big boulders, but one need not go far. It is one of those places which, for some unknown reason, salmon seem to like so much — where two main streams meet in a V. The fly is cast beyond the farther stream, the rod held well out, and the fly hung so that it swings round into the point of the V. One cast, two casts, three casts; then, as the fly comes round, a gleam of gold, not silver, for the water is still slightly coloured, and the scream of the reel. "You didn't see him the first time," says the gillie, as he prepares the gaff, to the fisherman struggling painfully to shore with the point held high. And I was glad I had not. Who knows but that I would have struck too soon? Three leaps, a stubborn struggle, and he is on the bank — 19lb.

NEWS

Hague fights for political life

■ William Hague battled for his political life last night by delivering a pledge of loyalty to Margaret Thatcher and her inheritance. As he struggled to contain the crisis that has hit his leadership only days from the most important elections since the Tories lost office, Mr Hague met all Tory MPs and promised to consult them more in future..............................Pages 1, 14, 23

Draskovic is dismissed

■ Vuk Draskovic, who has criticised President Milosevic and claimed that Belgrade was ready to accept a peace deal over Kosovo, was dismissed as Yugoslavia's Deputy Prime Minister yesterday. His sacking came days after he publicly declared that Mr Milosevic should acknowledge Nato could not be defeated. He also urged the Government in Belgrade to stop lying about the country's deteriorating economy.....................Page 1

Tory poll blow

Support for William Hague has dropped sharply among Tory supporters, who rate Tony Blair more highly as a leader, according to a MORI poll. This is a further blow as Mr Hague tries to assert his authority..............Page 2

Millionaire accused

A millionaire paid a hitman £20,000 to murder his former partner after she won custody of their two children, a court was told yesterday. Derek Goldsmith wanted care of their son and daughter, it was alleged...Page 3

Green site battle

A town that saw one of the fiercest environmental battles of recent years was yesterday facing another upheaval after Vodafone won approval to build its world headquarters on a green site....Page 4

Fiancé's grief

The fiancé of the murdered TV presenter Jill Dando spoke of his grief and incomprehension at her death. "I cannot understand why they would want to kill someone as gentle, kind and well-meaning and as perfect as Jill.".......Page 5

Ode to a new era

Poetry was assured of its place in the Millennium Dome when Simon Armitage was appointed poet-in-residence. He will spend six months on a 1,000-line ode to the celebrations...............Page 7

Revenge of the swots

Thousands of bright children are let down by schools and ostracised by classmates as "swots", according to MPs who say successive governments have neglected the most able pupils in their efforts to raise standards....Page 8

The Bar v Irvine

The Lord Chancellor faced a fresh onslaught over legal aid cuts when the Bar turned its wrath on him. The Bar is urging the Government to amend the Access to Justice Bill to preserve legal aid for vulnerable groups.....Page 10

Surgeon tribunal

A distinguished surgeon who was made an OBE for helping to save Lord Tebitt's wife after the Brighton bomb was dismissed after a series of life threatening blunders during operations, an industrial tribunal was told............Page 13

Poll in the balance

The wounding of eight Israeli soldiers in Lebanon and another in the West Bank over the past two days has added urgency to Israel's which moved into top gear with the launch of television campaign broadcasts............Page 16

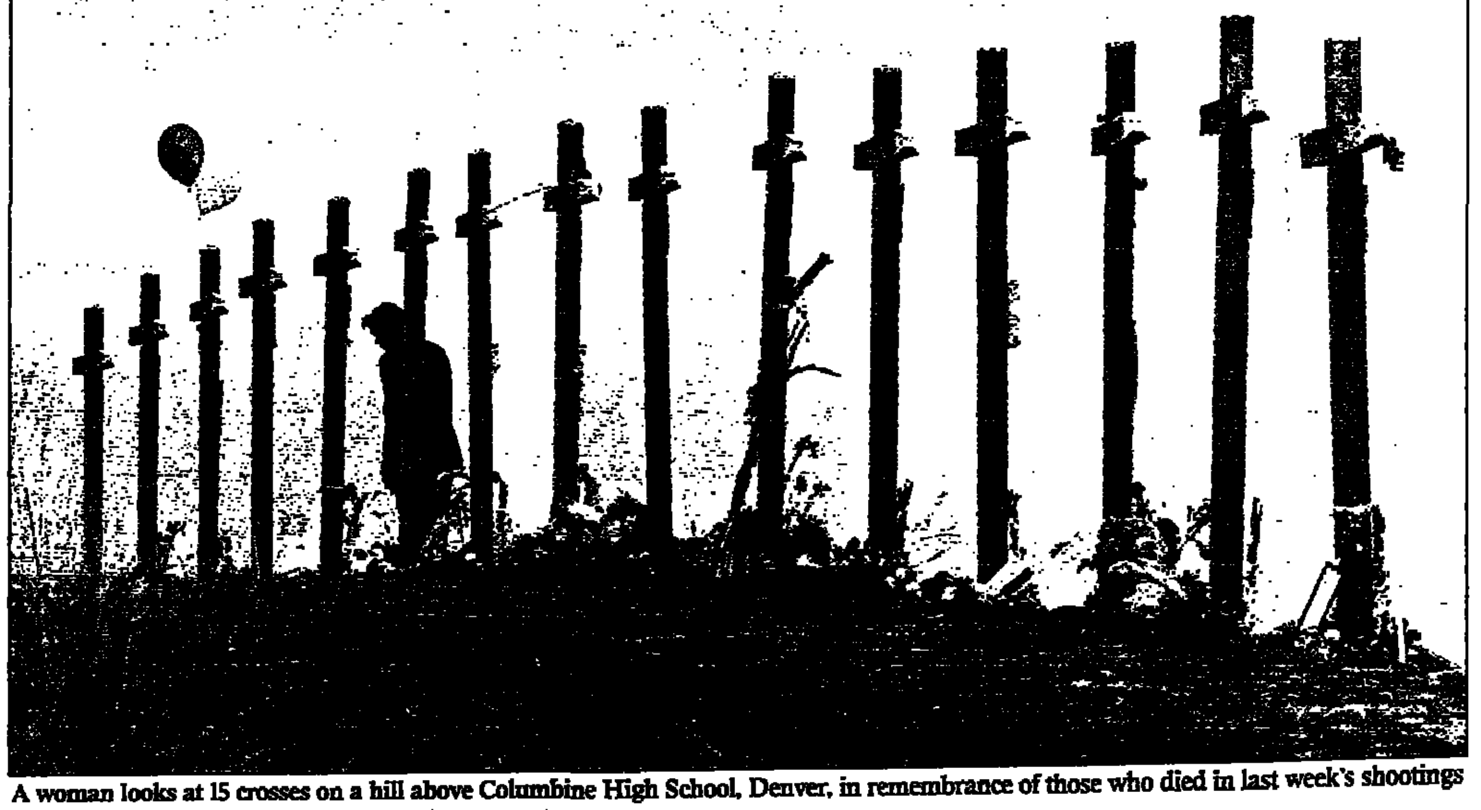
Nuclear secrets stolen

Almost every nuclear weapon in the US was compromised when a scientist suspected of spying for China transferred data from a secret computer system.......Page 17

The prince and the pawpaw

■ Fresh research into a Van Dyck masterpiece suggests that homegrown tropical fruit may have been everyday fare on the royal dining table in the time of Charles I. A pawpaw featured in the painter's *The Five Eldest Children of Charles I* (1637) is believed to be the earliest recorded image of the exotic fruit, discovered in the early 17th century, in this country..........Page 11

ERIC GAY / AP



A woman looks at 15 crosses on a hill above Columbine High School, Denver, in remembrance of those who died in last week's shootings

Nethercott knew: Ray Nethercott, the Allied Carpets managing director who surprised the City by resigning last Friday, knew about the accounting irregularities that shook the retailer last year, it was claimed yesterday..............Page 27

Henry sacked: National Power, the country's biggest non-nuclear generator, has sacked its chief executive, Keith Henry..................Page 27

Lifeline thrown: Laura Ashley has been cast a second financial lifeline by the billionaire Dr Kay Peng Khoo who stands to take control of the ailing retailer..................Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 5.2 to 6598.8. The pound fell 0.11 cents to $1.6153 but rose 0.03p against the euro to 65.84p. The sterling index was unchanged at 104.1.....Page 30

Football: The FA Carling Premiership is on the verge of making referees and their assistants use radio communications..................Page 49

Cricket: The first championship match of the season at Canterbury had everything that a Kent supporter could ask for except a more encouraging performance from their team..................Page 48

Snooker: John Parrott paid tribute to the abilities of Ronnie O'Sullivan after he was beaten by him in the quarter-finals of the Embassy world championship..............Page 50

Bryant's Eye: Who knows what pole vaulters get up to when they are halfway to heaven and ready to freefall back to earth? It's not so easy to catch them if they bend the rules..................Page 50

Cinema 1: David Cronenberg's new movie *eXistenZ* is an amiably intriguing sci-fi romp, while Neil Jordan's thriller *In Dreams* has a knockout opening..............Page 36

Cinema 2: The famous Julia Roberts smile is firmly in place as she talks about playing a filmstar in the new romantic comedy *Notting Hill* opposite Hugh Grant..............Page 37

Play time: Cate Blanchett delivers all the dramatic goods in the Almeida Company's revival of David Hare's *Plenty*; plus a bizarre *Lear* and a musical in Nottingham..............Page 38

Bad news: How the BBC got it terribly wrong when covering the murder of Jill Dando. Plus The Place's John Ashworth, godfather of modern dance..................Page 39

FEATURES

Mad and bad: "New brain imaging has revealed structural differences in the brains of aggressive offenders with mental disorders," says Dr Stuttaford. So will researchers find a biological basis for violence in the mentally disturbed? Plus, bowel cancer; the hay-fever season: multiple sclerosis..................Page 20

Go, Maggie: In the fourth extract from his memoirs, George Walden describes how Parliament, the Tories and the country realised it was time for Margaret Thatcher to step down..................Page 21

BOOKS

Balkan hatred: The importance of myth and symbol for the Serbs. Plus, reviews by Roger Scruton; Malcolm Bradbury; Peter Preston; Jonathan Dimbleby; Russell Celyn Jones..................Pages 40, 41

TRAVEL

Best buys: Villas and apartments in converted farmhouses in Tuscany; cruising in the Far East for five days..................Page 44

China's leaders allowed the peaceful sit-in led by a Buddhist Law sect in Beijing to go on all day because the group represents a popular social movement. China's leaders are hoping to control a phenomenon which presents a challenge of uncertain dimensions to Communist Party rule. — *The New York Times*

RADIO & TV

Preview: A big new series offering "a natural history of the solar system", no less. *The Planets* (BBC2, 9.00pm) **Review:** Just how dispiriting was the opening show of Hale and Pace's new variety series, h&p@bbc?..................Pages 50, 51

OPINION

No present alternative

Hague cannot simply sit and wait for the current controversy to dissipate. Profound damage has been done. He needs to take personal control of his policy review. He cannot assume that there will be no realistic alternative to his command for ever..................Page 23

Mind the gap

The Lord Chancellor's worthwhile reform of legal aid should not be blighted by the perception that it benefits the many at the expense of a deserving few..................Page 23

Good business sense

For publicity-conscious companies, helping the homeless may not seem enticing. They should think again..................Page 23

ANATOLE KALETSKY

But at the Washington seminar I had a revelation. I think I began to understand what the Third Way was about..................Page 22

MAGNUS LINKLATER

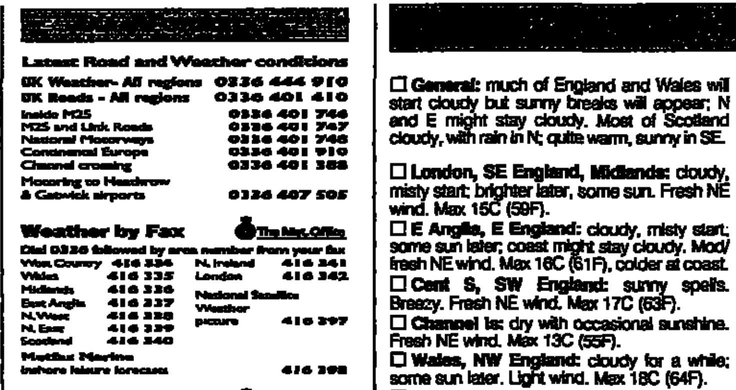
It may come to be known as the Mandelson Effect, a formula whereby the addition of the words Peter Mandelson to any political speculation causes an immediate chemical reaction, a fizzing noise, lots of smoke and a powerful smell of rotten eggs..................Page 22

MICK HUME

Miss Dando was clearly no Diana, more Tesco Metro than Harvey Nicks. Yet those trying to recreate the morbid effusion whipped after the death of the Princess insist that they were both like "the girl next door"..................Page 22

Major-General J.M.H. Lewis, wartime sapper; Al Hirt, trumpeter; Geoffrey Wigoder, author; Roland Hunt, diplomat..........Page 25

Plight of hapless Kosovans; George Walden's memoirs; man's "hybrid" ancestry; Tories and the free market; BBC Director-General: Pinochet extradition; EU patron saint; names fitted to jobs; businessman's trip to Mir..................Page 22



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **MEDIA**
Proving the critics wrong: David Yelland, left, talks about his year at *The Sun*

■ **EDUCATION**
American children who fail basic tests are being forced into classes during the summer.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,090

ACROSS

1 Theologian has a hard conclusion to ponder (6).
4 Not being served some egg or cream (3-5).
10 One polishes off something to read on beach (9).
11 Ruler absolutely banning son in military HQ (5).
12 Pronounced downfall of regime (5).
13 Independently ring three times with different directions (2,4,3).
14 Liberal planning Norfolk holiday? (5-6).
16 Archbishop of Canterbury once half lost in the wood (3).
18 Fairy 16 finally has sex change (3).
20 Heavy re-edit ordered? Come off it! (3,4,4).
22 Cause amazement about money needed up front for pastries (9).
23 Almost decided to conceal a muddle (5).
24 Expression of surprise about old record's high class (5).
25 Unaccompanied, about to sing piece from *Gondoliers* (9).
26 Tragic scene of evil, in English tradition (8).
27 Believe it may need extending, if one's short (6).

DOWN

1 One that's near getting fit for blue (9).
2 Skin spots fast disappear when iodine's absorbed (7).
3 Leaves producer in American ski resort (5).
5 Finally dance, as a finishing touch (3,4,7).
6 Daughter needs to change in manner when woeful child appears (9).
7 Sue has one extra place inside (7).
8 Taken in, defeated – executed (5).
9 Work both ways to locate issue for one's counterpart (8,6).
15 Wife and child I left only roof as shelter (5,4).
17 Statesmen arranged financial review (5,4).
19 Enemy, father said, may give us the slip (4-3).
21 It could give girl lift, on getting engaged at last (7).
22 Appropriate fabric provided by mate of this seaman? (5).
23 Short spell in which I relax here? (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,089

```
OUTOFORDER NOUS
N I O E X S F O
WAGER FRIGHTFUL
A H A R G E A I
RETALIATE RELIC
D R L I N W   I
SHORTEN THOUGHT
  P H      O U
PRESENT MIDRIFF
E   W U A F L O
GUSTO GUNPOWDER
A P R B U R H E
STILLROOM EXAMS
U L D A I S L A
SALE STATUTELAW
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Times Two Crossword, page 52

TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1999. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 0171-782 5000 and also printed at Knowsley Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN, telephone 0151-546 2000. Thursday, April 29, 1999. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

Sun rises: 5.37 am
Sun sets: 8.19 pm
Moon sets: 5.40 am
Moon rises: 7.02 pm

Full moon tomorrow

London 8.19 pm to 5.35 am
Bristol 8.29 pm to 5.45 am
Edinburgh 8.47 pm to 5.33 am
Manchester 8.34 pm to 5.38 am
Penzance 8.37 pm to 6.01 am





☐ **General:** much of England and Wales will start cloudy but sunny breaks will appear; N and E might stay cloudy. Most of Scotland cloudy, with rain in N; quite warm, sunny in SE.

☐ **London, SE England, Midlands:** cloudy, misty start: brighter later, some sun. Fresh NE wind. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **E Anglia, E England:** cloudy, misty start; some sun later; coast might stay cloudy. Mod/fresh NE wind. Max 16C (61F), colder at coast.

☐ **Cent S, SW England:** sunny spells. Breezy. Fresh NE wind. Max 17C (63F).

☐ **Channel Is:** dry with occasional sunshine. Fresh NE wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Wales, NW England:** cloudy for a while; some sun later. Light wind. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **Lakes, IoM, Cent N, NE England, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll:** cloudy, locally misty for a while; light rain; brighter, sunny spells later. Light var wind. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Bordrs, E'burgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** cloudy start, some sun by afternoon. Mainly dry. Light variable wind. Max 19C (66F).

☐ **NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** overcast, misty with occasional rain and hill fog. Mod SW or W wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **N Ireland:** cloudy for a while; sunny spells later. Mod N to NE wind. Max 17C (63F).

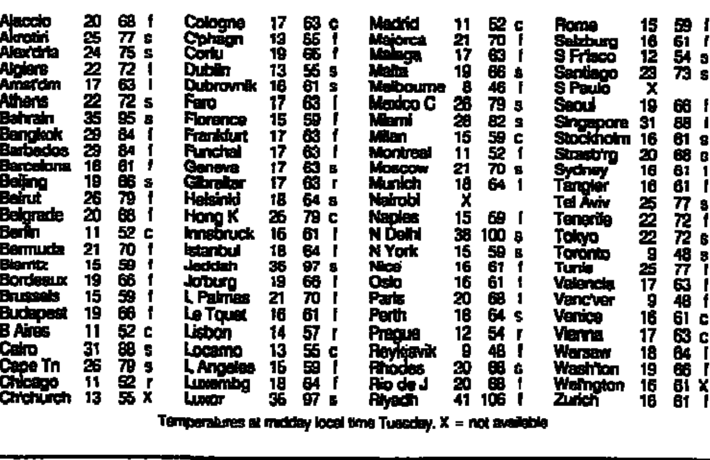
☐ **Irish Rep:** early mist, then bright, sunny spells; cloud in N. Light var wind. Max 21C (70F).

☐ **Outlook:** early mist in south tomorrow, then some sun; showers will edge across Channel. Rain in N will then spread to other areas; then cooler, showery in north.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	1.3	0.01	12	54	c	Leeds	13.4	-	19	66	s
Anglesey	13.5	-	16	61	s	Lerwick	2.8	0.05	11	52	b
Aspatria	12.6	-	19	66	s	Leuchars	4.1	-	13	55	fg
Aviemore	2.8	-	15	59	c	Littlehampton	13.7	-	18	64	s
Belfast	11.0	-	16	61	s	London	13.6	-	18	64	s
Birmingham	12.8	-	17	63	s	Lowestoft	10.2	-	13	55	s
Bognor R	13.7	-	19	66	s	Manchester	14.2	-	20	68	s
Bournemth	13.8	-	20	68	s	Morecambe	14.0	-	17	63	s
Bristol	12.8	-	19	66	s	Newcastle	12.2	-	15	59	s
Buxton	13.7	-	17	63	s	Newquay	13.5	-	19	66	s
Colwyn Bay	12.8	-	14	57	s	Norwich	12.2	-	16	61	s
Cromer	9.2	-	12	54	s	Oxford	13.3	-	18	64	s
Eastbourne	12.2	-	18	64	s	Penzance	12.2	-	18	64	s
Edinburgh	6.4	-	18	64	fg	Prestatyn	13.8	-	14	57	s
Eskdalemuir	9.6	-	20	68	s	Ross on Wye	13.9	-	19	66	s
Exmouth	13.5	-	18	64	s	Saunton Sands	12.7	-	19	66	s
Folkestone	13.0	-	15	59	s	Scarborough	9.5	-	9	48	fg
Glasgow	11.2	-	21	70	s	Shrewsbury	13.3	-	19	66	s
Hastings	12.8	-	17	63	s	Skegness	11.3	-	12	54	s
Hayling I.	12.7	-	19	66	s	Southend	12.7	-	16	61	s
Herne Bay	12.7	-	14	57	s	Southsea	12.7	-	19	66	s
Hunstanton	8.2	-	13	55	s	Stornoway	-	0.01	11	52	d
Isle of Man	13.3	-	18	64	s	Swanage	12.2	-	15	59	s
Isle of Wight	13.6	-	17	63	s	Tiree	3.5	-	11	52	c
Jersey	12.6	-	17	63	s	Torquay	12.3	-	19	66	s
Kinloss	1.6	0.01	12	54	r	Weymouth	13.4	-	19	66	s

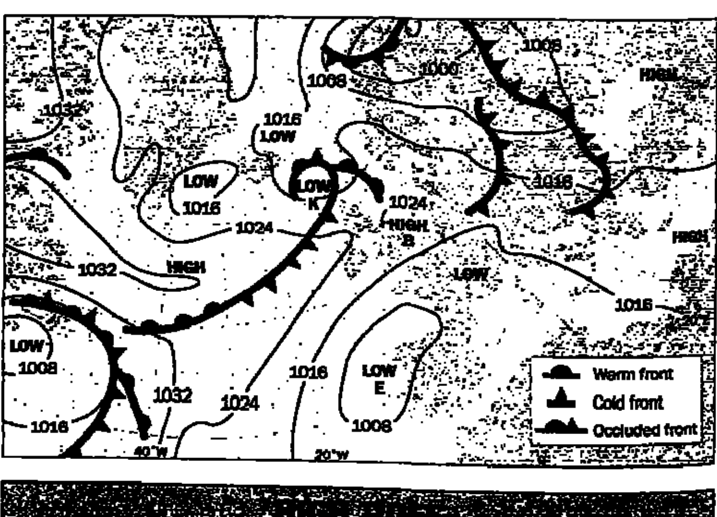
Yesterday: highest day temp: Llanbedr, 21C (70F); lowest day max: Tynemouth, and Leeming, 8C (46F), highest rainfall: Wick, 0.08ins; S highest sunshine: Manchester 14.2hrs



Ajaccio	20	68 f	Cologne	17	63 c	Madrid	11	52 c	Rome	15	59 f
Akrotiri	25	77 s	C'phagn	13	55 f	Majorca	21	70 f	Salzburg	16	61 f
Alex'dria	24	75 s	Corfu	19	66 f	Malaga	17	63 f	S Frisco	12	54 s
Algiers	22	72 f	Dublin	13	55 s	Malta	19	66 s	Santiago	23	73 s
Amst'dm	17	63 f	Dubrovnik	16	61 s	Melbourne	8	46 f	S Paulo	X	
Athens	22	72 s	Faro	17	63 f	Mexico C	26	79 s	Seoul	19	66 f
Bahrain	35	95 s	Florence	15	59 f	Miami	28	82 s	Singapore	31	88 f
Bangkok	29	84 f	Frankfurt	17	63 f	Milan	15	59 c	Stockholm	16	61 s
Barbados	29	84 f	Funchal	17	63 f	Montreal	11	52 f	Strasb'rg	20	68 s
Barcelona	16	61 f	Geneva	17	63 s	Moscow	21	70 s	Sydney	16	61 f
Beijing	19	66 s	Gibraltar	17	63 r	Munich	18	64 f	Tangier	16	61 f
Beirut	26	79 f	Helsinki	18	64 s	Nairobi	X		Tel Aviv	25	77 s
Belgrade	20	68 f	Hong K	26	79 c	Naples	15	59 f	Tenerife	22	72 f
Berlin	11	52 c	Innsbruck	16	61 f	N Delhi	38	100 s	Tokyo	22	72 s
Bermuda	21	70 f	Istanbul	18	64 f	N York	15	59 s	Toronto	9	48 s
Biarritz	15	59 f	Jeddah	36	97 s	Nice	16	61 f	Tunis	25	77 f
Bordeaux	19	66 f	Jo'burg	19	66 f	Oslo	16	61 f	Valencia	17	63 f
Brussels	15	59 f	L Palmas	21	70 f	Paris	20	68 f	Vanc'ver	9	48 f
Budapest	19	66 f	Le Touqt	16	61 f	Perth	18	64 s	Venice	16	61 c
B Aires	11	52 c	Lisbon	14	57 r	Prague	12	54 r	Vienna	17	63 c
Cairo	31	88 s	Locarno	13	55 c	Reykjavik	9	48 f	Warsaw	18	64 f
Cape Tn	26	79 s	L Angeles	15	59 f	Rhodes	20	68 s	Wash'ton	19	66 f
Chicago	11	52 r	Luxembg	18	64 f	Rio de J	20	68 f	Wellngton	16	61 X
Ch'church	13	55 X	Luxor	36	97 s	Riyadh	41	106 f	Zurich	16	61 f

Temperatures at midday local time Tuesday. X = not available

Changes to chart from noon: low E fills in situ; pressure remains on the low side across much of central and S Europe. Low K moves east, deepens; high B loses its identity



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	0:39	3.9	12:48	4.0	Liverpool	10:36	9.0	22:54	9.0
Avonmouth	6:30	12.6	18:51	12.7	London Bridge	1:06	7.0	13:30	7.2
Belfast	10:21	3.4	22:50	3.2	Lowestoft	9:08	2.3	20:59	2.4
Cardiff	6:16	11.7	18:37	11.8	Margate	11:42	4.6	23:48	4.5
Devonport	5:03	5.2	17:24	5.3	Milford Haven	5:30	6.5	17:48	6.6
Dover	10:27	6.3	22:40	6.4	Newquay	4:22	6.6	16:40	6.6
Dublin	11:06	4.0	23:20	3.8	Oban	4:59	3.6	17:25	3.7
Falmouth	4:34	5.0	16:55	5.1	Penzance	3:54	5.2	16:12	5.2
Greenock	11:50	3.2	-	-	Portland	5:45	1.7	18:15	1.8
Harwich	11:17	3.8	23:31	3.7	Portsmouth	10:34	4.3	22:54	4.4
Holyhead	9:42	5.3	22:01	5.3	Shoreham	10:36	5.8	22:53	6.0
Hull (Albert D)	5:41	8.1	17:49	8.4	Southampton	10:20	4.2	22:36	4.4
Ilfracombe	5:16	8.7	17:36	8.8	Swansea	5:38	11.9	17:54	12.0
King's Lynn	5:40	6.4	17:44	6.6	Tees	2:54	9.8	15:05	9.7
Leith	1:54	5.2	14:15	5.2	Walton-On-Naze	11:12	4.1	23:24	4.1

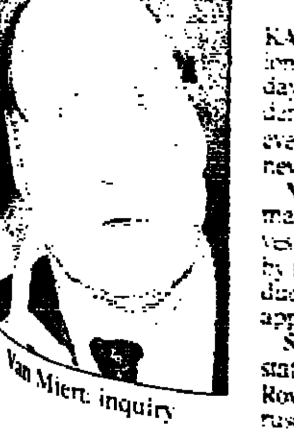
All times GMT. Heights in metres.





29 APRIL

Total number of lives saved so far this year:	73
Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year:	478
Cost to RNLI per day:	£222,000
Cost to taxpayer:	£0
To make a donation, telephone:	0800 543210



The $20bn meeting at Goldman
Business, page 31

BUSINESS • ARTS • BOOKS • SPORT • TELEVISION

THE TIMES

Jude and the Obscure
Arts, page 36

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY APRIL 29 1999

2

Nat Power chief goes in shake-up

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

NATIONAL POWER, the country's biggest non-nuclear generator, has sacked its chief executive and is to review strategy in an effort to revive flagging confidence in the company.

National Power also gave warning yesterday that it was reviewing its dividend policy, which is expected to result in a substantial cut, and that profits would be hit by the sale of the Drax power station. The sacking and shake-up have reignited bid speculation in the City and the shares rose 15p to 496½p.

Keith Henry was told to go by the board after a series of apparent U-turns in National Power's strategy, a poor performance in the share price and mounting criticism from investors and unions.

Mr Henry, who joined the generator four years ago from Brown & Root, is expected to get a pay-off of nearly £1 million. Last year he earned an £859,924 package and was given performance-related shares worth £313,000. He has 244,898 share options but 49,582 of those have a strike price higher than the current share price.

Although National Power said that Mr Henry resigned, it is understood that he did not want to leave but was given no option at a boardroom showdown on Tuesday.

His departure comes at a difficult time for National Power as it seeks to find a buyer for Drax. After yesterday's warning, analysts now expect annual pre-tax profits to be cut by £100 million a year once the sale of Drax is completed, although the station contributed £200 million to operating profits in the year to March 31. The generator is also to review its capital structure, triggering expectations that it could mount a share buyback after the sale of Drax.


Henry: told to go by board


Collins: long look at strategy

Things started to go wrong for National Power in March last year when it issued a £130 million UK profits warning because of the end of the coal contracts. This was followed by an international profits warning in the autumn. The generator further shook confidence in February this year when it emerged that it had been in merger talks with United Utilities. National Power had always said it didn't want a full regional electricity business, let alone a water and electricity business such as United.

A search is now on for a successor to Mr Henry. Sir John Collins, the non-executive chairman, is to act in an executive role until an appointment is made while Graham Brown, the managing director, will become chief operating officer. Sir John, who is chief executive of Avestey, wants someone with different skills to those of Mr Henry. Mr Henry was seen as a build and buy chief executive whose vision was unhinged by the Government's order to sell power stations and by the changing UK electricity market.

One name likely to be in the frame is John Devaney, former head of the Energy Group, who left the company shortly after its takeover by Texas Utilities. Mr Devaney would be seen as more focused and determined than Mr Henry, who has for long been compared unfavourably with the forthright Ed Wallis, chairman of PowerGen.

Sir John said: "I will be taking a long look at the strategy and seeking the right person for the job. We will take as much time as necessary."

Peter Atherton, analyst with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, said Mr Henry's removal put National Power properly into play as a bid prospect after months of expectation because of its poor performance. He said: "The management team has disappointed the investment community too much over the past 16 months."

Ken Jackson, general secretary of the AEEU, said: "It is to be hoped that National Power now achieves stability and purpose. The company clearly has enormous potential but that has not been achieved yet."

National Power is to set its final dividend at 19p (18p), making a total of 28.6p (27p).

Nethercott sacked over 'scam'

Managing director lied to the board, says chairman

PETER TREVNOR



David Pout, left, with Ray Nethercott, who was sacked by Allied Carpets on Friday

By Fraser Nelson

RAY NETHERCOTT, the managing director of Allied Carpets who quit the company last Friday, was sacked it emerged yesterday for allegedly lying repeatedly about his part in the accounting scandal that hit the company last year.

Julian Lee, chairman, said the board has evidence to prove Mr Nethercott was aware about a "phantom sales" scam that came to light in July last year. Mr Nethercott has had his contract terminated without compensation.

Mr Lee said: "I had always thought I had known Ray quite well, but clearly I didn't. He told the board he had no idea about the goings-on. I was extremely surprised and shocked to learn this was not the case."

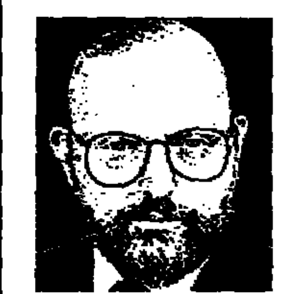
It is unclear whether Mr Nethercott may be liable to prosecution by allegedly misleading Arthur Andersen, the auditors who resigned over the affair. Paul Manser, partner at law firm Taylor Joynson Garrett, said Section 17 of the Theft Act, outlaws company directors making false statements with the intent of misleading shareholders. He added that Section 233 of the Companies Act states that directors who knowingly approve false accounts are guilty of an offence.

Allied Carpets admitted last summer that its store managers had been marking a carpet as "sold" as soon as an order was placed. The practise, known as "pre-dispatching", is not illegal but violated company policy that sales should not be marked as completed until delivery. The scam flattered trading figures and led to £3 million charge against profits last year.

Eight months ago, David Pout, finance director, resigned with a £221,000 payoff. He said he had no knowledge of the scam. Steve Barber, sales manager also left with £156,000 compensation.

Commentary, page 29

Business Today



Graham Searjeant
on false Messiahs
Page 32

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6596.9	(+5.2)
Yield	2.09%	
FTSE All Share	3041.84	(+2.63)
Nikkei	16942.24	(-15.03)
New York:		
Dow Jones	10845.74	(+14.03)*
S&P Composite	1357.86	(-4.94)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	[illegible]	[illegible]
Long bond	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yield	5.58%*	(5.54%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	5¼%	(5¼%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	116.08	(116.46)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6150*	(1.6182)
London:		
$	1.6151	(1.6163)
€	1.5190	(1.5178)
SFr	2.4426	(2.4365)
Yen	192.45	(194.24)
£ Index	104.1	(104.1)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.0617*	(1.0663)
SFr	1.5137*	(1.5077)
Yen	119.08*	(120.37)
$ Index	108.3	(108.6)

Tokyo close Yen 119.13

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jul)	$16.10	($15.65)

GOLD

London close	$282.45	($282.15)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates .... Page 28

Chairman ready to underwrite Ashley issue

By Fraser Nelson

LAURA ASHLEY yesterday sold its loss-making US stores for just $1 and was then cast a further financial lifeline by Dr Kay Peng Khoo, the company's Malaysian billionaire chairman, who has agreed to underwrite another rescue rights issue.

The £24.6 million rights issue is likely to see Dr Khoo raise the 40 per cent stake owned by his MUI Asia empire, to 60 per cent.

The sale of its disastrous US venture sees Laura Ashley retaining debts accrued of £34 million. Goldman Sachs, its merchant bank adviser, has been looking for a buyer since last September. The $1 paid by its management is understood to have been the only offer received. It was told it was in danger of being put into receivership unless it sold the US shops. Laura Ashley has already spent the £44 million it raised when it originally asked for Dr Khoo's help last year. It also had a £50 million bank overdraft facility which expired last Friday. The company has now negotiated a new £43 million overdraft facility which expires next April.

If there is no support for the 199 million shares being issued at 13p apiece then MUI and Dr Khoo will take them up. One analyst said yesterday: "The City institutions will not be climbing over each other to support this rights issue. The Malaysians are welcome to it."

Laura Ashley yesterday also reported a loss of £31.9 million for the year to January 30, an improvement on the £49.3 million loss last time.

Commentary, page 29

Unigate lifts bid for Terranova

UNIGATE, the food and dairy group, looked odds-on last night to win in its hostile attempt to take control of Terranova, the prepared foods business spun out of Hillsdown Holdings last year (Robert Cole writes).

Unigate raised its 125p-a-share cash offer to 150p late yesterday, and revealed that it had secured a promise from Phillips & Drew, the pension fund manager, to support the new offer. The offer is final unless a rival bid comes in of 160p or more. P&D speaks for 13.1 per cent of Terranova.

Crucially, however, in late trading, Unigate raided the market to acquire a 29.9 per cent stake in Terranova for itself. Together with P&D's 13 per cent and 5 per cent acceptances on the earlier bid terms, Unigate can count support from 48 per cent of Terranova stock.

Terranova said it is "considering" the revised offer. Its rose to 148½p from 139p yesterday. Unigate added 13p to close at 438½p.

Business rate rises 'put City jobs at risk'

By Martin Waller

LONDON businesses face having to pay an extra £800 million a year when the new business rate comes in from April next year, according to research by two respected property consultants. There are fears that significant job losses will result.

Organisations such as the Corporation of London and the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry are warning that the capital will be particularly badly hit this time around.

Although the new rates have yet to be set, research by Gerald Eve and CB Hillier Parker suggests that Central London could have to find an extra £4 billion over the next five years.

In the City, the evidence suggests that rates bills could rise by 70 per cent, while occupiers of new buildings could see even higher rises. Stephen O'Brien, chief executive of London First, the inward investment agency, said a gradual phase-in of increased rates is essential if London is to compete with other European and world cities.

Opponents of the present system are also calling for an additional levy of ½p for every pound paid across the country in business rates. This would be set aside in a special fund to alleviate the highest increases.

Without any reform, said Mr O'Brien, "pressure may be renewed on existing businesses to relocate outside central London. One major consequence of this would be the potential loss of a large number of jobs."

LINKS
WEBSITE: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk



EU to investigate Longbridge deal

By Sigrid Aufterbeck


Van Miert: inquiry

KAREL VAN MIERT, the European Union's Competition Commissioner, yesterday demanded that BMW produces evidence that its "Hungarian option" was ever a serious alternative to building its new Rover model at Longbridge.

Mr Van Miert has called for the information as the Commission launches an investigation into whether the aid granted by the British Government to ensure production stays in Birmingham should be approved by Brussels.

Speculation has increased that BMW's stated contingency plan of moving new Rover production to Hungary was just a ruse to squeeze financial support from the British Government. The Department of Trade and Industry agreed last month to grant BMW, Rover's German parent, aid of about £150million.

Stefan Rating, a spokesman for Mr Van Miert, said: "Since the automobile industry is a sensitive sector with existing overcapacities, the limits that apply for subsidies are particularly tight. To be eligible for aid, BMW must prove that investing in Britain would be substantially more expensive than elsewhere outside the EU."

Jürg Dinner, a spokesman for BMW, said: "We had informal talks in Hungary about specific sites therebut we always made it clear that Longbridge was our preferred location."

Tony Woodley, the union negotiator at Rover, said he was confident that BMW would have enough evidence to convince the Commission about the Hungarian option. "Once Mr Van Miert sees the facts, he will learn that there had been a serious competing bid from the Hungarian side," he said.

If BMW fails to produce any evidence, opposition to the subsidy will mount. Wendelin Widukind, head of Porsche, threatened in March to challange the aid package.Only last week, Ford was eager to point out that production of a new model at its Dagenham plant, which will increase production there by two thirds, will be launched without subsidies.

Commentary, page 29

Rail firms 'must help little-used services'

By Arthur Leathley and Fraser Nelson

THE profits of Britain's richest train companies are set to be squeezed to save little-used rail services in Britain's more remote areas.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, has refused new money to prop up loss-making rural services, some of which could be closed or replaced by buses to cut costs.

Instead he has told John Prescott, the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, that any extra financial help offered to weaker companies must come from within the rail industry. Money is expected to be clawed back from the most profitable train companies and from fines imposed on poorly performing operators.

Mr Brown's ultimatum comes as most of the 25 train operating companies are preparing to renegotiate their licences and amid fears that some operators may be close to collapse.

Three bus and rail combines — FirstGroup, National Express and Stagecoach — operate more than two thirds of the rail network and ministers expect these groups to dominate the round of negotiations beginning this summer.

Ministers are worried that little of the £1.6 billion railway subsidy is directed at struggling rural services. In contrast recipients of some of the largest subsidies include South West Trains and Great Western, owned by Stagecoach and FirstGroup respectively.

Regional services in Wales, the West, the North West and North East are under the greatest pressure as passenger growth has not matched that on intercity or London services.

As Treasury subsidies decline year on year, there are fears that at least one train company will go out of business. Treasury officials fear the collapse of an operator would damage confidence in the industry. A Whitehall spokesman said: "The sums done at privatisation are wrong. There is no point basing negotiations on spurious figures and some firms are going to need help. This is not a climbdown but a pragmatic approach to a problem."

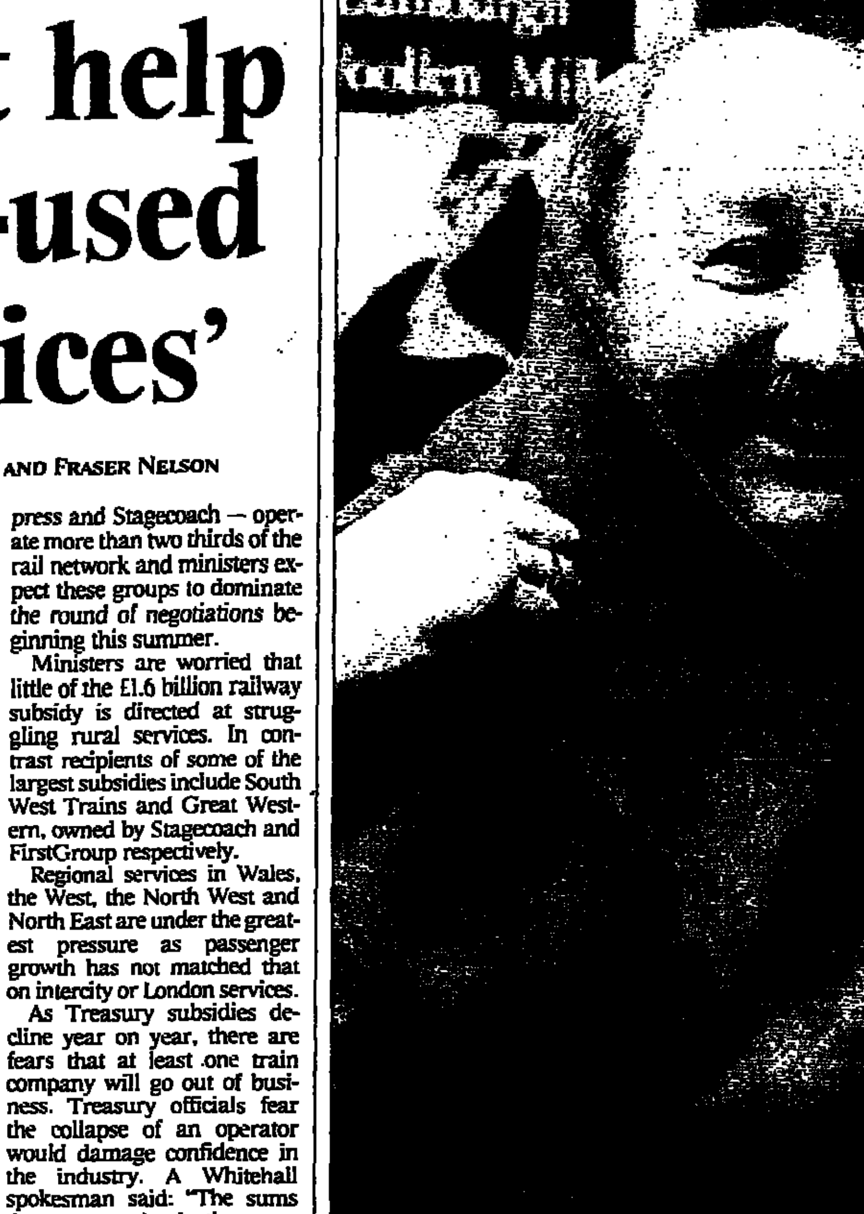
The shift in strategy would allow more open cross-subsidy of loss-making lines by other companies within the same rail group — prevented under rail regulations. For instance, *Prism Rail's WAGN company* reported a £14 million profit, while its Wales and West franchise lost £4 million.

A spokesman for the Railway Forum, the rail industry's umbrella body, said: "The time has come for a careful assessment of how to provide socially necessary rail services. Some of these companies need help but if a station is serving one passenger every three days it is fair to question whether resources are being channelled in a way that best serves the rural community."

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.57	2.40
Austria Sch	21.86	20.20
Belgium Fr	64.36	59.40
Canada $	2.514	2.326
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9204	0.8489
Denmark Kr	11.86	10.97
Egypt	5.73	5.12
Finland Mkk	9.57	8.82
France Fr	10.42	9.64
Germany Dm	3.129	2.887
Greece Dr	521	482
Hong Kong $	13.38	12.18
Iceland	130	110
Indonesia	17499	12499
Ireland Pt	1.2487	1.1597
Israel Shk	7.04	6.38
Italy Lira	3112	2875
Japan Yen	207.70	190.17
Malta	0.681	0.622
Netherlds Gld	3.532	3.237
New Zealand $	3.08	2.85
Norway Kr	13.19	12.25
Portugal Esc	316.52	294.49
S Africa Rd	10.43	9.47
Spain Pta	263.79	245.00
Sweden Kr	14.32	13.22
Switzerland Fr	2.592	2.374
Turkey Lira	645852	602924
USA $	1.727	1.584

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Colin Birrell, head of the Edinburgh Woollen Mill shops, on which Grampian Holdings is to focus, along with its Malcolm transport operation. Grampian saw pre-tax profits of £10.3 million (£29 million) after losses in businesses it is leaving. Its year's payout is 7.6p (7.2p).

Travis buys Keyline

By Carl Mortished

TRAVIS PERKINS is buying Keyline, the builder's merchant chain, from CRH for £181.5 million in a cash deal that will propel Travis Perkins to second in the builder's merchant sector in the UK.

The fifth-largest chain in the UK with 101 branches, Keyline will enable Travis to consolidate its grip on the heavy side of the market (cement and bricks) and will strengthen its position in the North and Scotland. The combined group will have sales of £932 million, or 11 per cent of the market.

CRH appointed Warburg Dillon Read to auction the business after the Irish company concluded that it could not achieve significant gains in the UK without a lengthy and expensive struggle. Keyline has just 3.7 per cent of the UK building materials sector and comparatively weak margins.

The decision by CRH to pull out of the UK merchant market signalled the final act in a struggle for dominance between the three largest players in the market: Wolseley, Meyer and Travis Perkins.

Wolseley, which focuses on the light side of the market, selling plumbing and heating products, remains the market leader but Meyer has now been pushed into third. Both Wolseley and Meyer have made large acquisitions recently.

Travis Perkins yesterday predicted savings of £15 million a year in the third year after the deal, with reorganisation costs of £7.5 million. Keyline had operating profits of £14.6 million last year after sales of £309 million.

The Bank reveals its policy models

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

THE Bank of England will today respond to criticism that it has taken a too mechanistic approach to setting monetary policy by publishing for the first time a full description of its economic models.

The Bank has at times come under fire for apparently relying heavily on its own econometric models to fine-tune interest rates, and in particular, the forecasts contained its *Quarterly Inflation Report.*

However, the report today emphasises that the Bank adopts a "pragmatic and pluralist" approach to setting monetary policy with interest rates ultimately decided by the "judgments" of the MPC.

The report, *Economic Models at the Bank of England*, emphasises that aside from its core macroeconomic model, the Bank also uses a series of other smaller models to test and explore the complexities of the economy.

However, these models simply provide tools for the MPC and only form part of the decision-making process which also includes evidence such as reports from the Bank's regional agents.

"Just as spades on their own cannot dig gardens, models cannot make forecasts — still less decide, policy," the report says.

Even the quarterly inflation charts, which City analysts have often argued seem to dictate the Bank's interest rate decisions, only provide a general consensus on the outlook for the economy and some members of the Monetary Policy Committee may disagree with the conclusions.

The Monetary Policy Committee today also publishes a separate report describing how it views the potential impact of the interest rate decisions on the economy.

The report, written in response to a request from the Treasury Select Committee, again emphasises that the Bank prefers a pragmatic approach to policy-making and that it does not adhere to any strict economic orthodoxy.



WEBSITE: http://www.bankofengland.co.uk

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Double for Stanley with £12.5m deal

STANLEY LEISURE, the bookmaker and casino operator, is to acquire Vickers Bookmakers, a privately owned company with 31 betting shops in the South West, for up to £12.5 million. *The announcement came the same day as Stanley posted the offer document for its recommended £86.4 million acquisition of Capital Corporation, the London casino operator.*

A fall in margins in its bookmaking division meant pre-tax profits in the year to May 2 would be "not less than £23 million" compared to analysts' forecasts of about £26 million. However, it said it expected margins to "return to normal levels over time". It said it was also positive over the effects of a draft order on casino deregulation laid before the House of Commons last week. The order calls for an increase in the number of jackpot machines per casino from six to ten, the introduction of limited advertising *and further relaxation of* membership conditions. Shares of Stanley lost 5½p to 248½p.

Bioglan booming

BIOGLAN PHARMA, the recently floated skincare specialist, is expecting another year of strong growth after debut results that showed a 59 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £3.4 million. Placed at 245p last December, Bioglan's shares yesterday climbed 4p to a new high of 340½p, valuing the business at £270 million. Bioglan's preferred measure of underlying earnings increased by 117 per cent to £9.2 million, on sales 86 per cent higher at £43.4 million. Earnings per share were 18 per cent lower at 2.62p. **Tempus, page 30**

Sedgemoor sells out

SEDGEMOOR, the electronics and computer parts distributor, is selling up to Acal, its larger rival. The recommended bid is a mix of cash and paper which values Sedgemoor at 50.8p or £77.9 million. The offer of £10.65, plus one new Acal share for every 30 Sedgemoor shares, equates to a premium of 30 per cent to the 39p that Sedgemoor was trading at three months ago when it received the approach. Derek Crook, Sedgemoor chief executive, will be joining Acal.

Inchcape's online step

AN ONLINE car-buying service will today be launched by Inchcape, the car distribution company. Inchcape will base the Internet service on the brand and technology of Autobytel — the US online car-buying company quoted on the Nasdaq stock exchange — under a 20-year licensing deal. The service will let consumers compare prices and specifications of new and used cars from 250 Autobytel franchised dealers. They will also be able to download road tests and reviews of cars.

Vibroplant approach

A LEAP by shares in Vibroplant has forced the plant hire group to admit receiving an approach by Jeremy Pilkington, chairman and chief executive, and Neil Stothard, finance director, with a view to taking it private at 70p to 75p a share. This would value Vibroplant at £32.3 million to £34.6 million. Mr Pilkington is a director of Ackers P Investment Company, Vibroplant's 51.3 per cent owner. The shares rose 7p to 65p.

Sony profit falls 20%

SONY has seen net profits plunge by nearly 20 per cent. The Japanese electronics group, maker of the Walkman personal stereo, reported net profit for the year to March 31 of Y179 billion (£927 million), down from Y222.1 billion the previous year. It forecast that its current-year net profit will fall to Y110 billion as sales begin to wane for the PlayStation games console, which generates nearly 40 per cent of operating profits.

Scottish Radio buys

SCOTTISH RADIO, the radio group whose main interests are Radio Clyde and Radio Forth, yesterday bought Parkin Advertising, a Bristol outdoor contractor, for £8.9 million. Parkin made pre-tax profits of £610,000 in its year to March 31, on sales of £3.59 million. Scottish will pay £8.7 million in cash, and £500,000 in shares. It said: "This is a positive step forward in our planned expansion in the outdoor sector."

New watchdog plan for accountants

SELF-REGULATION in the accountancy profession will be a thing of the past from the turn of the year when a new regulatory framework is implemented. The new regime will be majority-controlled by representatives from outside the profession.

Ian McCartney, the Trade and Industry Minister, said yesterday that a new eight-person foundation will be set up to oversee regulation of the profession, while an independent review board will act a watchdog. "These new bodies will cover the investigation and prosecution of disciplinary cases in which there is a public interest. They will also cover the setting of auditing and ethical standards," said Mr McCartney.

He added: "At least 60 per cent of the membership of these new bodies will represent consumers and users of accountancy and be nominated by leading financial and consumer institutions."

Accountancy, page 33

ICI sells paints business to PPG



Time to pull rug from under Lee

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Julian Lee is not resigning as the chairman of Allied Carpets. Despite being an accountant and having been blissfully unaware of the long-running accounting irregularities that have caused Allied such difficulties, Mr Lee has no intention of deserting his shareholders.

They may not find this a source of great comfort. Mr Lee remained in the chair of textile company Hollas as it descended into receivership. He took over as chairman of the business in 1993. In 1996 he was proclaiming that Hollas was on track to be a leading clothing supplier, despite appearances to the contrary. Less than two years later, it was gone.

Mr Lee may have been better able to take the disappointment than some of his shareholders: he had made £3 million after leading the buyout of Bricom from British & Commonwealth Holdings and selling it on. British & Commonwealth, however, did not survive for much longer.

Mr Lee was the chairman of Allied Carpets when it came to market in 1996, the prospectus signed off by the chaps at Arthur Andersen, his old firm. If the auditors could not spot what was going on at Allied, then perhaps it was not surprising that the chairman missed the trick. But Arthur Andersen is the company's auditor no longer.

If executives are out to hoodwink the auditors, they can often succeed. It happened at Wickes, for instance, where a complicated system produced different invoices for different audiences. The Allied accounting rules seem to have been such that Sherlock Holmes might have found it hard to spot the discrepancies.

As the £2 million black hole was exposed, executives bowed out but Ray Nethercott remained at his desk. He may not have been the best at selling carpets, but he excelled at keeping things under them. In August last year, as the Allied share price sank to 53p because of the scandal, he vowed that "the rebuilding process starts today". But it did not. Yesterday Allied was looking even more sickly, its shares at just 39p. Last year venture capitalist Alchemy was proffering a bid at 55p but found its offer spurned after an initial friendly reaction.

Shareholders will not see the like of that again. Allied's problems now go well beyond its accounting systems and straight to sales. Lord Harris of Peckham would have taken the firm out of its misery if the competition authorities would have allowed. Instead of that, he is simply taking the business. The carpet king has no qualms about hitting a competitor when it is down and Carpetright is offering promotions that Allied cannot afford to equal.

Mr Lee may have settled his ample frame into the managing director's chair, but he will need to move fast to fight Lord Harris. Shareholders might feel inclined to suggest that he bows out with his managing director and does not risk another Hollas.

What hope for lovelorn Laura?

There are celebrations all round at Goldman Sachs, as even the humblest telephonist looks forward to a hand-out of shares that should yield a hefty bonus in future years. Were she in kindly mood, she might contemplate blowing some of that future wealth in advance on a Laura Ashley outfit.

That Laura Ashley is still afloat is testimony to the remarkable skills of the investment banking house and its star turn, John Thornton, in particular. But the Malaysians who were persuaded to save Laura from bankruptcy by the then chairman, one John Thornton, must be wondering what on earth they saw in her.

Now MUI is faced with putting £25 million more into keeping the old girl afloat. Their intention must be that, once they emerge as the majority owners of the business, they will be able to take it private so that they can conceal further indignities from public view. Mr Thornton will then be absolved from his current non-executive directorship and be able to wipe out the whole sorry episode — if Sir Bernard Ashley will let him.

If the irascible Sir Bernard had been able to accept that Ashley stopped being a family business the day it was floated, the picture might look very different now. Instead, he interfered and the company suffered a rapid succession of managers.

The current incumbents face a difficult task, even if they will be soon addressing it away from the glare of the public spotlight. Laura may still have her fans, although by now they must be confused as to whether she stands for pretty prints or modern tailoring of the kind favoured by Anne Iverson. But shoppers are not splashing their money around, as Arcadia made clear yesterday.

The tenor of the statement from the company was not quite as gloomy as the figures it reported, but chief executive John Hoerner was far from upbeat about the prospects on the high street. Arcadia has cut back its forecasts and is keeping prices in check.

Its high street chains may face a toughening up of the competition as Philip Green gets to work on the Sears businesses that he now owns. Mr Green would find it hard to make a worse job of running them than the previous management, but the chances are that he will soon be pocketing the proceeds from selling them on to others. Mr Hoerner must be wondering whether he should stand back and risk a sharper competitor getting hold of his rivals or dig deep and buy them himself.

Burns goes to extra time on penalties

Steering the new Financial Services Act onto the statute books was never going to be an easy task but expecting Lord Burns to knock it into shape within just four weeks was asking the impossible. The former Permanent Secretary to the Treasury is a man of many talents but distilling the concerns of a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament over one of the more controversial pieces of proposed legislation would be a rushed job with a six-month timetable.

Lord Burns does not have the luxury of that but he has been allotted another month. The issues of concern that have arisen were predictable. There is some worry over the definition of market abuse, a failing which is probably more easily discernible in practice than it is on paper. Those drafting the legislation feel sure that a Clapham omnibus-riding IFA or broker would recognise market abuse when he met it.

The issue of greatest concern, however, remains the disciplinary powers with which the new authority is to be endowed and the fears that these might amount to a breach of human rights. Lawyers have exhibited unusual generosity of spirit in pointing out their suspicions on this front now instead of waiting to take on the cases that might be generated were the Bill to go unchallenged. Lord Burns should use his extra time to ensure that the disciplinary system will be speedy and fair, even if this makes it more costly.

Subsiding subsidies

KAREL Van Miert's days as Competition Commissioner in Brussels may be numbered but he is not going to let that stand in his way now that the government subsidy for Rover has caught his attention. But as he huffs and puffs he might take note that between 1995 and 1997 the average subsidy for each worker employed in manufacturing industry in Italy was €2,302 and in Germany it was €1,569. For the UK, the figure was just €381. The Longbridge workers could argue that they deserve more.

TI tops up with Walbro of the US in £356m purchase

By Paul Armstrong

TI GROUP, the specialist engineering company, has made a $570 million (£356 million) recommended takeover bid for Walbro, a petrol tank maker listed on Nasdaq.

The purchase, which is expected to enhance earnings from next year, is aimed at enabling TI to meet vehicle makers' demands for integrated fuel systems.

TI makes flowlines for transporting fuel to the engine and Walbro specialises in tanks made from advanced composite materials and petrol pumps.

Walbro reported earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) of $79 million last year from sales of $678 million.

The price includes $388 million of assumed debt, most of which stems from Walbro's heavy capital investment programme of the past three years.

TI will also incur a $25 million cost to buy out Walbro's management under that company's change of control provisions.

Sir Christopher Lewinton, the TI chairman, said that about $9 million of this would be paid to Frank Bauchiero, Walbro's chief executive.

The total offer represents an earnings multiple of 7.2-times Walbro's 1998 earnings on an EBITDA basis.

It is pitched at a premium of more than 60 per cent to Walbro's share price shortly before the bid was announced.



TI chairman Sir Christopher Lewinton, right, with finance director Martin Angle. The deal includes $388 million of debt

Sir Christopher said Walbro would meet TI's internal hurdle rate, which is a 15 per cent return on investment within three years of purchase. He said the deal would make TI the first company in the world to supply a totally integrated fuel system. The composite materials used to make Walbro's tanks meant it would also be able to offer significant environmental advantages over its competitors. This was because there was less scope for hydrocarbons to escape. Sir Christopher said the integrated fuel systems business was worth $6.5 billion a year, of which TI would have 15 per cent.

Michael Blogg, an analyst with Charterhouse Securities, said he had revised his 2000 forecast earnings growth for TI from 11 per cent to 14 per cent on the back of the deal.

Mr Blogg said TI could be expected to lift Walbro's margins significantly from the current level of about 6 per cent.

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ICI sells paints business to PPG

By Carl Mortished
International Business Editor

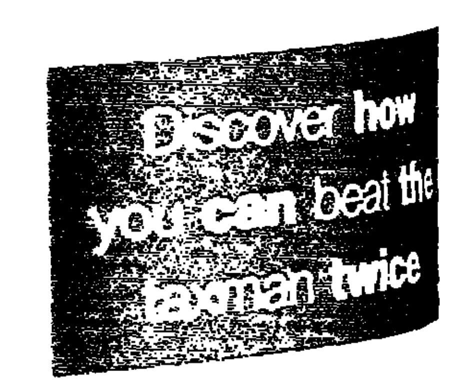
ICI is selling an industrial paints business to America's PPG for £425 million in a deal that will further reduce its borrowings after this month's £1.4 billion sale of the titanium dioxide and polyurethane businesses to Huntsman.

PPG is acquiring ICI's refinish coatings, used in vehicle damage repair, and Grow Automotive, a North American solvents and thinners business, as well as a variety of industrial coatings operations in Latin America and Asia.

The deal will contribute a pre-tax profit of £190 million for ICI and the deal will have a neutral effect on earnings over the next year.

PPG has been attempting to build up its industrial coatings business over the past year, and earlier in April bought a minor coatings business from ICI in Germany. The US company lost out to Akzo Nobel in its attempted bid for Courtaulds and missed acquiring Herberts, the coatings business which was sold by Hoechst to DuPont.

ICI's debt burden, taken on when the company acquired Unilever's fragrance and flavourings businesses, will fall to £2.3 billion after the disposals to Huntsman and PPG. It is still seeking buyers for the halochemicals businesses and its acrylics business which together have sales of about £1.5 billion.



Arcadia shares rise despite profits slump

By Fraser Nelson

SHARES in Arcadia yesterday rose 14 per cent as the Burtons to Principles retail group said it came out of the Christmas sales slump in better shape than the City expected.

The shares jumped 32½p, to 272½p even though Arcadia turned in interim profits more than halved to £23 million (£50.3 million).

The company said that its sales growth returned in February and March, but stopped short of giving a figure.

Arcadia had been expected to be among companies hardest hit by the downturn in retail sales because it pays top rents for places in most UK high streets and retail parks.

John Hoerner, chief executive, said that the group lost about 1.5 percentage points in gross margin to shift unsold stock after Christmas, but had maintained its market share

Analysts are divided on the share performance. Some question whether a £3.7 million charge for an internal shake-up should have been put as a one-off item. Others say Arcadia is being chased by fans of its Internet retail service, which has more than half the UK online market.

Mr Hoerner said: "These could not be described as good profit figures by any stretch of the imagination, but they are obviously better than some people were expecting."

Arcadia shares have fallen 14 per cent in the past ten days.

Basic earnings per share were 19.5p (31.2p). The interim dividend is held at 4.7p.

Tempus, page 30

M&S to leave Canada

By Paul Armstrong

MARKS & SPENCER has ended its disastrous 26-year foray into Canada, announcing yesterday that it would close its 38 stores within a year.

The move, which will cost M&S £25 million, has placed a big question mark over the future of the group's stores outside the UK, many of which also incur heavy losses.

M&S's Canadian arm has crawled out of the red just once since its creation in 1973, prompting questions from analysts yesterday about why the company was so slow in addressing the problem. It made an £8.3 million operating loss in the year to March 31, 1998.

An M&S spokeswoman said the decision had been prompted by the expiry of many of the store leases held in Canada.

A strategic review of M&S's activities is due to be unveiled in June.

Merger approach lifts Partco

By Matthew Barbour

SHARES in Partco rose 30 per cent after the car parts and crash repair company reported it is in possible takeover talks for the second time in less than ten months.

The talks centre around a possible £178 million bid — 245p per share — for the company, representing a premium of 36 per cent to the closing share price on Tuesday, the day before the talks were announced. Last year Partco rejected a £420 million merger approach from Finelist.

Analysts yesterday ruled out Finelist as a possible suitor because of its weak balance sheet. Another candidate is GE Capital, the US financial services company. Another possible bidder is Ford, which took over the Kwik-fit chain for £1 billion earlier this month. Partco is one of Kwik-fit's main car parts suppliers. Shares in Partco closed up 53½p yesterday at 233½p.

First Leisure and Cannons halt talks

By Dominic Walsh

CANNONS GROUP and First Leisure yesterday abandoned plans to merge their health and fitness businesses — just two days after announcing that they were discussing a deal.

The merger, under which Cannons would have issued new shares to acquire First Leisure's fitness division, was terminated after the sides said they were "unable to reach agreement on the financial terms". A deal would have doubled Cannons's market value to more than £500 million. Neither side would elaborate, although it is understood that the amount of debt First Leisure wanted to inject into the enlarged group was one of the issues. One analyst said: "Cannons is only in the market for deals that are earnings enhancing. What First Leisure brought to the table clearly wasn't earnings enhancing."

It is understood that three First Leisure executives would have joined the enlarged Cannons board, including Patrick Henchoz, the head of its fitness division. Mr Henchoz last week received £4.3 million from the sale of a minority stake in ISL Leisure, one of First Leisure's subsidiaries. First Leisure paid a total of £13.8 million to buy out the 23 per cent of ISL it did not already own, the balance of £9.5 million going to Nash Sells & Partners, the venture capital group.

Cannons, formerly known as Vardon, may consider a move on Pinnacle Leisure, which abandoned plans for a £70 million flotation last year and is considering a possible trade sale. Cannons said: "Cannons is an acquisitive company and is the strongest pure health and fitness company in the market financially. There are plenty of opportunities."

The failure of the talks heightens the pressure on Michael Grade, the First Leisure chief executive. The sale had been expected to result in a break-up of the company. Analysts expressed concern at the lack of action. First Leisure shares closed down 7½p at 246p while Cannons was unchanged at 192½p.

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STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Oil companies pump out good gains after reports

OIL shares took up the baton from telecom stocks by dragging the rest of the equity market back into positive territory after a nervous start.

Overnight support by American investors for oil-related companies set the pace reflecting the latest rise in the price of a barrel of oil. Sentiment was flavoured by a bullish report from the American Petroleum Institute which revealed that US crude oil stocks had fallen by 4.7 million barrels in the week to April 23. Year-on-year, crude stocks were also down 6.6 million barrels.

The report fuelled further gains for the price of oil on world markets where a barrel of North Sea Brent crude was changing hands at $16.28. That is in stark contrast to the low of just under $10 a barrel reached earlier this year.

Among the leaders, **BP Amoco** jumped 36½p to £11.60, **Shell** 9¾p to 454½p, while among the exploration companies **Ranger Oil** stood out with a rise of 15p to 270p.

Share prices generally lacked much of the sparkle seen earlier in the week despite a strong overnight performance by the Dow Jones industrial average and opening gains last night.

The FTSE 100 index managed to reverse an early 16-point deficit and, at one stage, again breached the 6,600 level. But it was running out of steam towards the close following two consecutive days of impressive gains. In the event, it closed 5.2 up at a new high of 6,598.8. The FTSE 250 index also rose 5.0 to 5,813.7 as the total number of shares changing hands reached 1.18 billion.

The life assurance operators managed to post some useful gains with **Prudential Corporation** climbing 50p to 919½p after highlighting the success of its Egg banking operation. It has achieved its five-year target plan of 500,000 customers and £5 billion of savings in just six months. Warburg Dillon Reed, the broker, has been pushing the Pru as a "buy".

Encouraging trading statements lifted **Sun Life & Provincial** 28½p at 577½p and **Royal & SunAlliance** 1½p to 527½p. **United Assurance** also advanced 14½p to 469½p. Speculative buying hoisted **Independent Insurance** 26p to 258½p.

British Airways firmed 1p to 504½p after becoming the first non-financial company to raise extra funds with an issue of euro-denominated fixed interest stock. The issue of €300 million (£200 million) has a nominal value of €25 and a fixed coupon of 6.75 per cent.

British American Tobacco put on 22p at 505p ahead of first-quarter results later today which should see pre-tax profits come in at between £280 million and £295 million, down from £311 million.

The profits warning from **Stanley Leisure**, down 5½p to 248½p, where margins in its horse racing operation have come under increasing pressure also took a toll of rival **Ladbroke**, 18¾p off at 293½p.

J Sainsbury retreated 3¼p to 400¾p as HSBC Securities, the broker, reiterated its "reduce" recommendation and target price of 350p for the shares. It has also lowered its rating for **Tesco**, 1p lighter at 186¼p from "hold" to "reduce" now that the price has reached its target of 187p.

An upbeat trading statement lifted **Ocean Group** 10p to 963p. Shareholders at the annual meeting were told that trading in the first quarter had lived up to expectations for the freight forwarder. The group is looking for suitable acquisitions to develop its air and sea freight activities. The price has more than doubled since hitting a low of 472½p in October last year.

Bullish comments at the annual meeting had investors beating a path to **Sytner Group**, up 11p to 212p. The motor distributor says 1999 has got off to an encouraging start with profits well ahead of budget and the corresponding period last year.

But some cautious comments about current trading left **United Carriers** 2½p off at 20½p. The haulier reported a decline in volumes but said it was too early to say whether it was temporary or a growing trend.

AIM-listed **Artisan (UK)** touched 9½p before ending ¾p better at 8p. Rosenoble, a private company, has bought 12.8 million shares, or 15.4 per cent. At the same time, Stephen Dean, chairman, has bought an additional 929,135 shares for his adult children's family trust. He now controls 24.9 million shares, or 29.9 per cent.

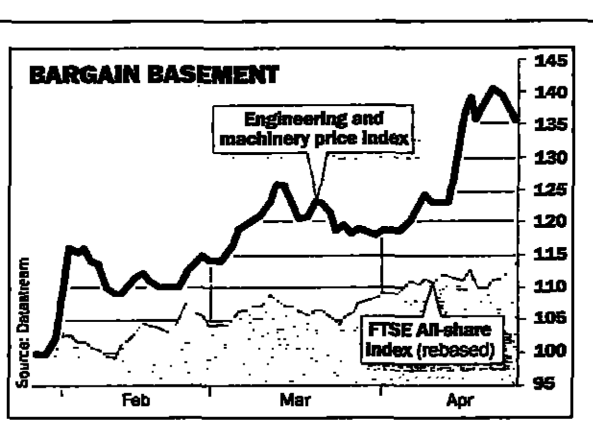
□ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices were dealt a blow by the cool reception given to the latest auction of 30-year index-linked stock. The issue of £500 million nominal of Treasury index-linked 2030 was only 94 per cent subscribed. Other index-linked issues suffered with losses stretching to £4 in places.

News of the auction also left the June series of the long gilt nursing a loss of 38p at £116.08 as the number of contracts completed reached 44,000. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 shed 91p at £145.12, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 9p lighter at £105.76.

□ ***NEW YORK:*** *US blue chips were mixed in early trading with cyclicals strong. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 14.03 points to 10,845.74.*



Frank Sytner, chairman, saw shares of Sytner Group rise 11p to 212p on the back of a positive annual meeting



BARGAIN hunting is the name of the game these days. Some investors have been happy to plough their money into fashionable sectors such as drugs, telecoms and high-tech. Others would sooner seek out value among those companies left behind in the bull run.

Charterhouse Securities, the broker, maintains engineering and machinery is one such sector. It has outperformed the FTSE All share by 10 per cent and restored value to those levels not seen since August 1998.

But Michael Blogg, at Charterhouse, insists that there is still value to be had. Comments made by Bodycote International at the time of its results were misinterpreted and the shares, down 12½p to 987½p, have scope for improvement.

Others on his shopping list include FKI, up 1½p to 174p, McKechnie, 5½p dearer at 447½p, and Vitec Group, 5p better at 562½p. All three companies are strongly placed in their world markets and enjoy strong management.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 10845.74 (+14.03)
S&P Composite .... 1357.86 (-4.94)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 16942.24 (-15.03)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 13133.39 (-231.40)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index .... 575.53 (+1.12)

Sydney:
AO .... 3122.7 (-22.5)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 5348.61 (+1.11)

Singapore:
Straits .... 1837.16 (-39.23)

Brussels:
BEL20 .... 3236.15 (-21.71)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 4374.70 (-16.22)

Zurich:
SMI Index .... 7360.9 (-16.4)

London:
FT 30 .... 4122.6 (+11.0)
FTSE 100 .... 6598.8 (+5.2)
FTSE 250 .... 5813.7 (+5.0)
FTSE 350 .... 3141.5 (+2.5)
FTSE Eurotop 100 .... 3063.98 (-0.10)
FTSE All-Share .... 3041.84 (+2.63)
FTSE Non Financials .... 3046.01 (+0.95)
FTSE Fixed Interest .... 153.87 (-0.48)
FTSE Govt Secs .... 110.09 (-0.30)
Bargains 79192
SEAQ Volume 1186.4m
US$ .... 1.6153 (-0.0011)
Euro .... 0.6584 (-0.0005)
£:SDR 1.1916
Exchange Index .... 104.1 (Same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
RPI .... 164.1 Mar (2.1%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIX .... 163.2 Mar (2.7%) Jan 1987 = 100

RECENT ISSUES

Affinity Internet	176½	+	34
Br Smaller Co's VCT (100)	95		...
Br Smlr Cos VCT Wrts	12½		...
Cairngorm Euro Restruct	112½		...
Cairngorm Restruct Wrts	25½		...
Edinburgh Inc & Val	110		...
Edinburgh Val Zero Dv Pl	106½		...
Fleming I & G Units 2006	648		...
Gartmore High Income	111	+	½
Gartmore Zero Div Pl	109		...
Halifax Non Cum Pl	100½		...
Northern 2 VCT	100		...
Sherry FitzGerald	142		...
Sports Internet	186½	−	7
Triven VCT	100		...
Voyager 2000	8½	+	½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Calluna n/p (125)	4¼	+	1¼
Ennex International n/p (IR5p)	2½	+	½
Mice Group n/p (80)	26½	+	½
Versalite n/p (05)	1¼		...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Black Arrow	102½	+ 12½	+ 13.8
Arcadia Group	272½	+ 32½	+ 13.5
Carrs Milling	97½	+ 11	+ 12.7
Independent	258½	+ 26	+ 11.1
Finelist Grp	170½	+ 16½	+ 10.7
Bowater Inc	3131¼	+262½	+ 9.1
Adam & Harvey	167½	+ 14	+ 9.1
Alexandra	147½	+ 12	+ 8.8
Bool (Henry)	260	+ 20	+ 8.3
Torex	185	+ 14	+ 8.1
JJB Sports	368½	+ 26	+ 7.5
Premier Farnell	282½	+ 19½	+ 7.4
DFS Furniture	308½	+ 21	+ 7.3
Caradon	157½	+ 10½	+ 7.1
Ashanti	538	+ 35¼	+ 7.0
Celltech	500	+ 29	+ 6.1
Sherwd Intl	450	+ 25	+ 5.8
Clydeport	218½	+ 12	+ 5.8
Prudential	919½	+ 50	+ 5.7
Sun Life & P	577½	+ 28¾	+ 5.2
Fuji Bank Y	472¾	+ 20¾	+ 4.5
Brit Amer Tob	505	+ 22	+ 4.5
Kingfisher	921½	+ 39½	+ 4.4
Br Energy	545½	+ 23	+ 4.4

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Dewhirst	108	− 11½	− 9.6
Fibernet	472½	− 32½	− 6.4
Ladbroke	293½	− 18¾	− 5.8
Mitel	336¾	− 19	− 5.3
Misys	579½	− 25½	− 4.2

TEMPUS

Fuelling fresh growth

TI GROUP should have little difficulty convincing the market that its $570 million (£356 million) acquisition of Walbro is a winner. Once the jargon has been extracted, TI's concept is simple. TI already makes the pipes which supply fuel from the petrol tank to the engine. Walbro manufactures petrol tanks. Putting the two together will enable TI to offer vehicle manufacturers a one-stop shop for fuel delivery systems around the globe.

TI, under the guidance of Sir Christopher Lewinton, has bought wisely. Its purchase price of $20 a share represents a premium of 67 per cent over Walbro's share price prior to the deal. More relevantly the price is equivalent to 7.2 times 1998 earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation.

It is obvious that Walbro is not Wall Street's best friend. It has invested heavily — perhaps excessively for a company of its size — in state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment but its shareholders have tired of the company's promises of jam tomorrow.

Moreover, Walbro's investment programme is responsible for the fact that $388 million (£241 milion) of TI's purchase price is assumed debt.

However, Walbro shareholders' loss is TI's gain. Walbro's production capacity leaves plenty of room for expansion and TI can draw on Walbro's technical knowledge. There is ample scope for TI to lift margins.

The acquisition is likely to be earnings neutral for TI this year, leaving the stock trading on a prospective earnings multiple of 14 times. This represents fair value now, but the earnings boost which will flow from Walbro in 2000 puts TI on the buy list.

Arcadia

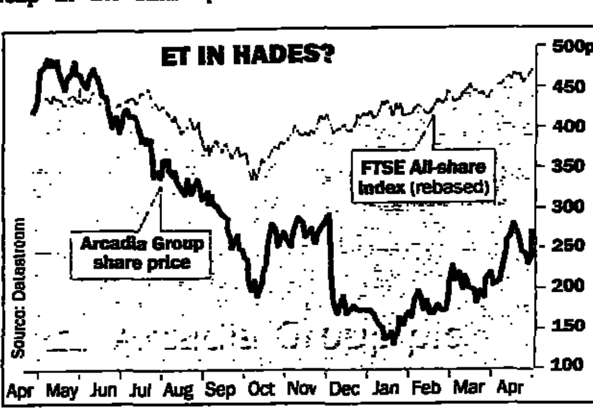
IT IS odd, even in these days of helter skelter share prices. Yet stock in Arcadia, the renamed and reformed Burton clothes shop, rose nearly 14 per cent yesterday. That made it the biggest riser on the day among the 350 largest quoted companies.

True, the share price has weakened in the past couple of days and part of yesterday's performance can be put down to a correction. Arcadia's reference to Internet trading may also have fired sentiment. But it must be becoming *de rigeur* these days for retailers to have healthy Web distribution channels. Internet exposure among serious retailers struggles, already, to be genuinely differentiating.

Yesterday's interim profit figures gave no comfort and could not have fuelled the share price leap. Pre-tax profits were ugly. Profit margins were cut in half and sales seem to be going nowhere. The interim dividend was maintained at 4.7p, which indicates that the underlying picture is every bit as grim as it seems.

But none of this satisfactorily explains yesterday's 32½p leap in the share price to 272½p, or the strong recovery from the 134p price plumbed in January.

On occasion investors have to resign themselves to the fact that they work from a position of imperfect knowledge. We do not know what the excitement is but the gut says something is going on, perhaps on the acquisition front. Hold on.



Builder's merchants

AFTER Yuppies, Dinkies and Skis (pensioners who Spend the Kids' Inheritence) comes the Biddy. The Biddy is the homeowner who, when renovation and decoration is required, says to him/herself: "Buy It, Don't Do It Yourself."

Biddy culture goes some way to explain why DIY sheds have struggled to attract custom. Self-employed joiners, decorators and plumbers — the Biddy outsourcers — do not buy from the retail sheds, but from builder's merchants.

Shares in the builder's merchants have stormed away this calendar year. Meyer International, one of Tempus's 1999 new year tips, has done very nicely, adding 26 per cent since January.

Wolseley is up by a similar amount and shares in Travis Perkins, which yesterday bought CRH's builder's merchant business, have risen from 355p in Janaury to 606p now. CRH's Keyline has been a headache for the Irish company for ages, but with the focus of being part of a pure merchant it should do better.

More widely, local competition between merchants is not as great as among DIY sheds, but the jobbing builder still buys in relatively modest bulk and wants to source locally. Biddies, therefore, hand merchants crucial pricing power.

There is more to be had at Travis, Wolseley, and Meyer.

Bioglan

BIOGLAN PHARMA'S Terry Sadler is keen for the City to know that his company is not some spivvy biotech outfit but "a real company with real sales and real profits".

So it is, but it is also one that is currently valued at 130 times its fully diluted earnings per share for last year — though this falls to a mere 84 times if you take Bioglan's preferred measure of eps, and to about 50 times on current-year forecasts.

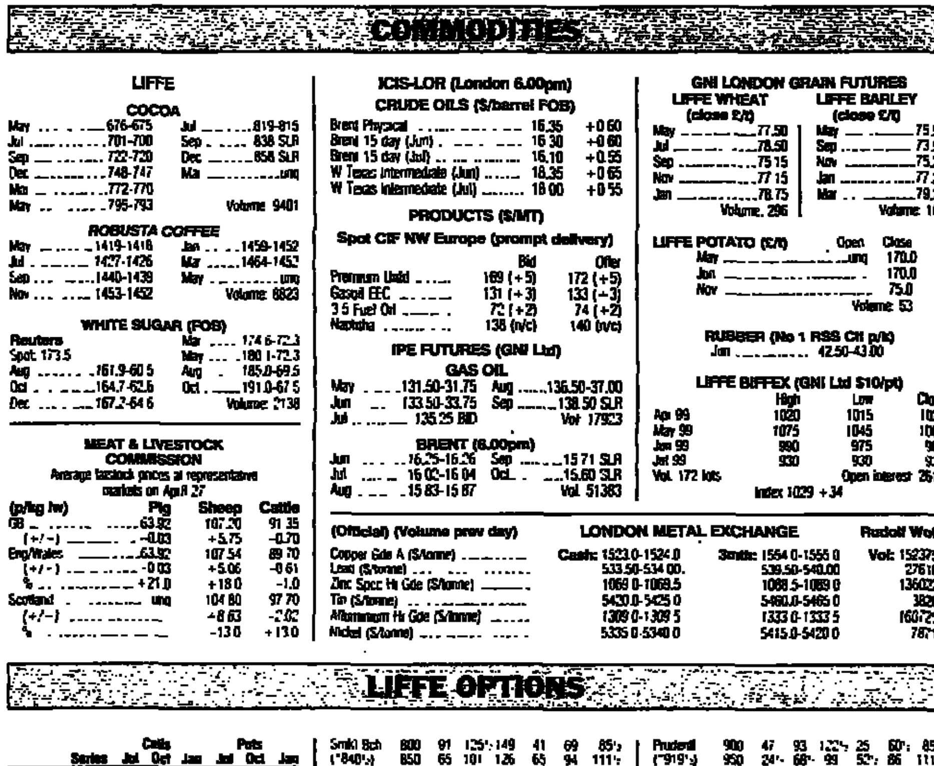
The fragmented dermatology market provides Bioglan with plenty of opportunity to grow. Acne gels and eczema creams are too small to excite the interest of "big pharma", which is why Bioglan was able to pick up Zeneca's portfolio of products for £16 million last year. Bioglan, therefor, can continue its rapid growth by rolling out into continental Europe and the US.

None of this, however, is enough to justify the 95p rise in the shares since Bioglan's float last December. The market attached considerable value to Bioglan's drug delivery technologies that allow medicines to be taken via aerosols and wax sticks. The Biosphere technology for controlled release of proteins looks particularly interesting. But many of these projects remain at an early stage.

A decent company, but at 340½p the shares are pricey.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES



LIFFE

COCOA

May	676-675	Jul	819-815
Jul	701-700	Sep	838 SLR
Sep	722-720	Dec	858 SLR
Dec	748-747	Mar	unq
Mar	772-770		
May	795-793		Volume: 9401

ROBUSTA COFFEE

May	1419-1418	Jan	1459-1452
Jul	1427-1426	Mar	1464-1452
Sep	1440-1439	May	unq
Nov	1453-1452		Volume: 6823

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	174.6-72.3
Spot: 173.5		May	180.1-72.3
Aug	161.9-60.5	Aug	185.0-69.5
Oct	164.7-62.6	Oct	191.0-67.5
Dec	167.2-64.6		Volume: 2138

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 27

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	63.92	107.20	91.35
(+/-)	-0.03	+5.75	-0.70
Eng/Wales	63.92	107.54	89.70
(+/-)	-0.03	+5.06	-0.61
%	+21.0	+18.0	-1.0
Scotland	unq	104.80	97.70
(+/-)		-8.63	-2.02
%		-13.0	+13.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)
CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	16.35	+0.60
Brent 15 day (Jun)	16.30	+0.60
Brent 15 day (Jul)	16.10	+0.55
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	18.35	+0.65
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	18.00	+0.55

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	169 (+5)	172 (+5)
Gasoil EEC	131 (+3)	133 (+3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	72 (+2)	74 (+2)
Naphtha	138 (n/c)	140 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL

May	131.50-31.75	Aug	136.50-37.00
Jun	133.50-33.75	Sep	138.50 SLR
Jul	135.25 BID		Vol: 17923

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jun	16.25-16.26	Sep	15.71 SLR
Jul	16.02-16.04	Oct	15.60 SLR
Aug	15.83-15.87		Vol: 51383

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	77.50	May	75.50
Jul	78.50	Sep	73.50
Sep	75.15	Nov	75.25
Nov	77.15	Jan	77.25
Jan	78.75	Mar	79.25
Volume: 296		Volume: 100	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
May	unq	170.0
Jun		170.0
Nov		75.0
		Volume: 53

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Jan 42.50-43.00

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 99	1020	1015	1020
May 99	1075	1045	1060
Jun 99	990	975	985
Jul 99	930	930	930
Vol. 172 lots			Open interest: 2611

Index 1029 +34

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) — Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1523.0-1524.0	1554.0-1555.0	1523750
Lead ($/tonne)	533.50-534.00	539.50-540.00	276100
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1069.0-1069.5	1088.5-1089.0	1360225
Tin ($/tonne)	5420.0-5425.0	5460.0-5465.0	38265
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1309.0-1309.5	1333.0-1333.5	1607250
Nickel ($/tonne)	5335.0-5340.0	5415.0-5420.0	78714

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

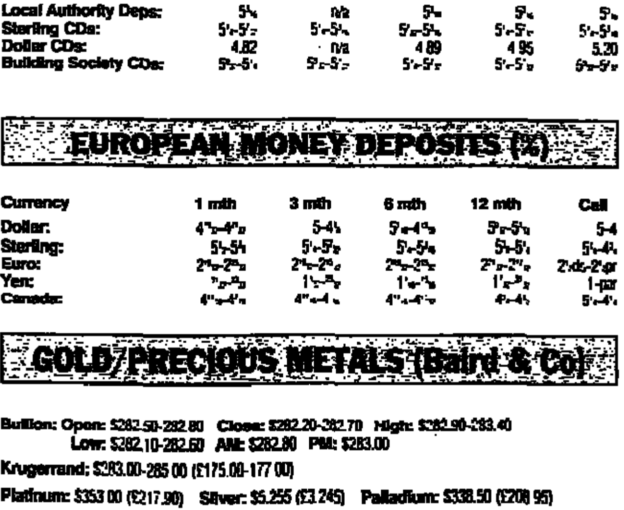
LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Jun 99	116.42	116.47	115.88	116.08	53294	81579
	Sep 99				115.78	0	0
5-Year Gilt	Jun 99				107.32	0	0
	Sep 99				107.32	0	0
Italian Govt Bond	Jun 99	114.77	114.77	114.49	114.67	11295	38117
Japanese Govt Bond	Jun 99	134.96	135.08	134.93	135.05	1056	0
	Sep 99	134.16	134.16	134.16	134.22	50	0
3-Mth Sterling	Jun 99	94.800	94.820	94.790	94.810	9679	183965
	Sep 99	94.830	94.850	94.820	94.830	21894	193813
	Dec 99	94.580	94.630	94.570	94.600	18974	148741
3-Mth Euribor	Jun 99	97.410	97.410	97.395	97.400	25177	205447
	Sep 99	97.410	97.415	97.400	97.405	21856	215099
	Dec 99	97.225	97.225	97.205	97.210	11471	134295
	Mar 00	97.295	97.295	97.270	97.280	16300	119523
	Jun 00	97.210	97.210	97.180	97.200	7930	67444
3-Mth Euroswiss	Jun 99	98.930	98.980	98.920	98.970	10385	100192
	Sep 99	98.840	98.880	98.830	98.880	8107	67383
3-Mth Euro Libor	Jun 99	97.400	97.400	97.400	97.400	11	104552
	Sep 99	97.400	97.400	97.400	97.405	10	91789
	Dec 99				97.210	0	82107
	Mar 00	97.270	97.270	97.270	97.280	9	82219
	Jun 00	97.190	97.190	97.190	97.200	14	62359
FTSE 100	Jun 99	6620.0	6641.0	6601.0	6635.0	22068	195137
	Sep 99	6660.0	6660.0	6660.0	6685.0	300	6897

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5¼ Finance House 5½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5½ Low 5¼ Week fixed: 5¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5, 3 mth 4[illegible] Sell: 2 mth 4[illegible], 3 mth 4[illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:					
Interbank:	5⅝-5¼	5⅝-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5⅝-5⅛
Overnight: open 5¼ close 5¼					
Local Authority Deps:	5¼	n/a	5⅛	5⅛	5⅛
Sterling CDs:	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛
Dollar CDs:	4.82	n/a	4.89	4.95	5.20
Building Society CDs:	5⅝-5¼	5⅝-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5⅝-5⅛



EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	4[illegible]-4[illegible]	5-4¾	5⅛-4[illegible]	5⅛-5⅛	5-4
Sterling:	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-4¾
Euro:	2[illegible]-2[illegible]	2[illegible]-2[illegible]	2[illegible]-2[illegible]	2[illegible]-2[illegible]	2¾ds-2¼pr
Yen:	[illegible]	1⅛-⅞	1⅛-⅞	1⅛-⅞	1-par
Canada:	4[illegible]-4[illegible]	4[illegible]-4[illegible]	4[illegible]-4[illegible]	4⅞-4¾	5¼-4¼

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $282.50-282.80 Close: $282.20-282.70 High: $282.90-283.40
Low: $282.10-282.60 AM: $282.80 PM: $283.00

Krugerrand: $283.00-285.00 (£175.00-177.00)

Platinum: $353.00 (£217.90) **Silver:** $5.255 (£3.245) **Palladium:** $338.50 (£208.95)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 28	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	11.253-11.298	11.283-11.298	¼-⅛pr	¾-½pr
Euro	1.5180-1.5200	1.5182-1.5197	0.13-0.15ds	0.42-0.45ds
Montreal	2.3833-2.3920	2.3833-2.3864	0.15-0.07pr	0.36-0.23pr
New York	1.6146-1.6194	1.6146-1.6156	0.062-0.042pr	0.138-0.107pr
Oslo	12.552-12.613	12.585-12.600	⅛-¼ds	⅜-⅛ds
Stockholm	13.468-13.559	13.535-13.559	⅜-¼pr	⅞-⅜pr
Tokyo	191.91-193.26	192.33-192.55	⅞-¾pr	2⅛-2½pr
Zurich	2.4344-2.4442	2.4411-2.4442	⅞-¾pr	2⅝-2½pr

Source: Extel Premium = pr Discount = ds

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5283-1.5295
Canada	1.4752-1.4762
Denmark	6.9690-6.9710
Euro	0.9356-0.9384
Hong Kong	7.7503-7.7508
Japan	118.68-118.73
Malaysia	3.8000-3.8001
Norway	7.7745-7.7795
Singapore	1.6975-1.6985
Sweden	8.3478-8.3565
Switzerland	1.5074-1.5084

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6150-1.6250
Australia dollar	2.4720-2.4754
Bahrain dinar	0.6020-0.6172
Brazil real*	2.7420-2.7520
Cyprus pound	0.8630-0.8844
Euro	1.5143-1.5168
Finland markka	8.9216-9.0845
Greece drachma	488.00-500.00
Hong Kong dollar	12.5349-12.5388
India rupee	68.40-70.12
Indonesia rupiah	13470.0-14170.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4875-0.4999
Malaysia ringgit	6.1446-6.1486
New Zealand dollar	2.9325-2.9397
Pakistan rupee	79.25 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8175-5.9647
Singapore dollar	2.7444-2.7477
S Africa rand	9.7040-9.9558
U A E dirham	5.8675-6.0161

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	854	Kingfisher	15,768
ASDA Gp	27,951	Ladbroke	14,546
Abbey Ntl	2,116	Land Secs	1,147
Alince & Leic	3,216	Legal & Gn	6,389
Allied Dom	2,468	Lloyds TSB	6,434
Allied Zrch	4,827	Marks Spr	9,173
Amvescap	1,200	Misys	1,949
AB Foods	915	Nat Grid	7,878
AstraZeneca	3,635	Nat Power	10,374
Bk of Scot	4,486	NatWst Bk	1,653
BAA	2,437	Norwich Un	3,261
Barclays	3,495	Orange	1,767
Bass	1,673	P & O	4,476
BG	11,698	Pearson	2,279
Billiton	4,070	PowerGen	1,054
BOC	739	Prudential	11,509
Boots	5,238	Railtrack	3,307
BP Amoco	16,152	Reckitt Col	715
BAe	24,688	Reed Intl	1,573
BA	13,308	Rentokil	13,531
Brt Am Tob	9,405	Reuters	3,046
Brit Energy	3,300	Rio Tinto	11,503
BSkyB	8,455	Rolls Royce	2,876
BT	11,765	Ryl & Sun	4,387
CGU	1,539	Ryl Bk Sct	1,743
COLT Telecom	442	SA Breweries	1,170
Cable Wire	3,484	Sainsbury	9,518
Cadbury	2,899	Schroders	222
Carlton Cms	2,428	Scot & New	2,337
Centrica	11,245	Scot Sthn Engy	7,028
Compass Gp	1,688	Scot Power	5,740
Daily Mail A	132	Securicor	590
Diageo	4,799	Serna Gp	514
Dixons Grp	3,912	Svrn Trent	781
EMAP	172	Shell Trans	34,107
EMI	3,935	Smiths Ind	724
Energis	930	SmKl Bch	11,352
Gen Elec	13,820	Stagecoach	3,799
GKN	2,075	Std Chartd	5,077
Glaxo Well	4,386	Sun Life	3,254
Granada	1,536	TeleWest	5,102
GUS	2,244	Tesco	33,635
GRE	808	Thames W	815
Hanson	3,749	Unilever	23,449
ICI	1,487	Utd News	2,581
Imperial Tob	689	Utd Utilities	1,152
HSBC	2,834	Vodafone	22,116
Halifax	2,796	WPP	5,539
Hays	1,776	Whitbread	1,459
Invensys	18,008	Woolwich	3,727

WALL STREET

[illegible]

THE GOLDMAN SACHS ACCOUNT

The great partnership passes away



ON TUESDAY, Goldman Sachs will float on the New York Stock Exchange, so ending 130 years of partnership and turning hundreds of senior executives, including Hank Paulson, left, and Jon Corzine into multimillionaires. Twice before, in 1986 and 1996, Goldman came close to ending its partnership structure, but pulled back from the brink. In the first of two exclusive extracts from *Goldman Sachs: The Culture of Success* by Lisa Endlich, the story of how Goldman finally decided to become a public company can be told.

In 1998, Goldman Sachs went from strength to strength, earning more than a billion dollars in each of the first two quarters. Only 24 months after rejecting the notion of becoming a public company, the landscape — the firm's fortunes, the markets, and its competition — had changed entirely. In December 1997, Jon Corzine (senior partner) had publicly stated that the majority of partners wanted the firm to remain private and that the issue of a public offering would not, he believed, be on the agenda in 1998. But the rampant bull market, which saw the Dow rise from 7,400 to 9,200 during the spring and continued to increase the valuations given to investment banks, as well as rapid consolidation in the securities industry, contributed to the firm's decision to reconsider its private status in a project aptly named Echo.

From 1995 to 1997, Goldman Sachs had watched Morgan Stanley merge with retail-based Dean Witter; Salomon Brothers combine forces with Smith Barney and Citibank; Union Bank of Switzerland join with Swiss Bank Corporation; and Bankers Trust purchase niche mergers and acquisition expert Alex Brown.

But perhaps the biggest threat to the firm's continuing existence as a private independent investment bank came not from these mergers but from Merrill Lynch's purchase of the massive Mercury Asset Management. Goldman Sachs may or may not have wanted to buy Mercury, but it probably did not have the option to do so. As a private company, with no stock, it would have been extremely difficult for the firm to spend the more than $5 billion Merrill Lynch paid for the British fund manager. Early in 1998 Goldman Sachs had considered purchasing a stake in Garantia, the premier Brazilian investment bank, but the deal fell through. As other opportunities like this arose in asset management or bargains cropped up in the battered Asian economies, the firm was hamstrung without public shares to use as an acquisition currency. Some of the financial opportunities, as in the case of Merrill Lynch taking over bankrupt Yamaichi Securities or Salomon Brothers's investment in Nikko Securities at a time when the value of Japanese assets was depressed, would be shortlived, depending as they did on economic conditions that might soon change. The partners needed to act decisively and quickly if they were to capitalise on this window of opportunity.

"Structure follows strategy" was the watchword of the firm's newest committee, established in March as a sub-committee of the operating committee. Hank Paulson (vice-chairman) led a group of eight department heads in a review of the firm's strategy. The strategy committee was charged with surveying the terrain for the next five to ten years, imagining the world of 2008 and determining what kind of institution Goldman Sachs would be when it got there.

As they had done before the 1996 meeting, the partnership and operating committees held a joint meeting in New York in May to hear the strategy committee's report. This was a very different meeting than the one that had taken place two years earlier. And although most of the faces in the room were the same, the outcome would be entirely different.

At this two-day meeting the strategy committee laid before the most senior partners a plan for vigorous expansion. The report rejected the notion of Goldman Sachs joining the ranks of banking behemoths. The firm would not rush out and combine forces with Chase Manhattan or JP Morgan, as had often been speculated. Goldman Sachs did not need to be a supermarket of financial services — the opportunities in its existing client and proprietary businesses were deemed more than ample for the firm to grow.

Goldman Sachs would continue down the path it had been on, albeit at a much faster pace. The firm had ambitious plans for expansion. Over the next five years the firm planned to double the number of people working in its client-serving business, which, it believed, would more than double the amount of revenue it earned. Building the firm's asset management through organic growth or small purchases, which is what the firm had done to date, was rejected in favour of much more agressive acquisitions, particularly in Europe and Japan.

Many of the important strategic arguments — the possibility of making a large acquisition, defraying partners' risk, and facilitating rapid expansion — strongly suggested a sale. The lone hurdle was the cultural issue. One current partner feels that the issue boiled down to: "How do you walk in here the next day and look a guy in the face who has worked here for eight to ten years and tell him you've just taken away his opportunity to be a partner of the firm?"

Tension built as the fateful meeting approached. Corzine told all employees early in June that they needed to hang on a little longer until there was resolution and that the management was glad to be facing this decision in a period of strength without the backdrop of financial anxieties. He also announced that Paulson would be named co-chairman and co-CEO of the firm, a position equal to Corzine's. It was a return to the past, to a management formula that had worked so well for the firm before.

Going into the June 12 meeting many felt the decision could go either way. Everyone knew that in 1996, Corzine, Paulson, (Roy) Zuckerberg, and (Robert) Hurst had supported a sale, and many believed that they would again, yet there were widespread reports of opposition by the youngest members, (John) Thain and (John) Thornton. As in the two previous partnership-wide meetings on this subject, no one doubted that management would not proceed with a sale if it lacked the overwhelming support of the firm's owners. And because of the division within the executive committee, the threshold for support among the partners would need to be high — a simple majority would not suffice.

There was one crucial difference from the two earlier meetings. In 1986 the newest class of partners had only been on the job for six days and had almost no equity. In 1996, the equity of new 1994 partners was also relatively small, since 1995 was not a particularly strong year. But when the 1996 partners were asked to consider a public sale in 1998 they had already booked one record year and a second looked more than likely; therefore they would have much larger capital stakes to sell. Although it is always the most junior partners who are disadvantaged by a sale, in 1998, in part because of the inflated valuations the stock market had placed upon investment banks well into the summer months, for this group the economics would be compelling.

Goldman Sachs's 190 partners retreated on Friday, June 12, to the IBM Palisades executive conference centre north of New York City, where they cloistered themselves in a red brick and timber complex on top of a hill. Security was high, with extra plain clothes security guards on duty, and the entrances to the compound were closed. The location of the meeting had been kept secret, and many members of the press congregated at the Arrowwood conference centre, assuming the meeting would be there. Even with the extra security one journalist climbed over the fence and another tried to infiltrate the meeting using a fake ID card. As rain poured down outside, the partners faced what Paulson called a decision of "grave importance . . . one of the most important things the firm will ever do."

As had been the case in 1986 and 1996, the format of the two-day meeting included a presentation by the committee studying the firm's options, a 50-page folio of financial scenarios, and an open and spirited debate by the entire partnership. No one expected there to be a vote at this gathering; there was no formal proposal and nothing to vote on. The partnership would signal its interest to the executive committee, and later, if it was deemed to be the will of the group, a specific proposal would be drawn up on which the partners would then vote.

Paulson spoke at the first session on Friday morning, and his words set the tone for the next two days. Paulson's goal was to make all partners in the room re-examine their position and rethink any assumptions they might have held before the meeting. Partners remember that he made both cases, for going public and for staying private, in an exaggerated manner, causing everyone to consider the repercussions of their viewpoints.

TOMORROW
Goldman's role in the rise and fall of Robert Maxwell

In the evening, the partners met for a barbecue and what was billed as an entirely social evening. The atmosphere was a little like that in a college dormitory, as many partners watched the NBA playoffs on TV, while others milled in and out of game rooms and congregated in small groups in hallways and on stairs to discuss the burning issue of the moment. On Saturday morning Corzine addressed the group on a subject close to his heart — fairness. But first he felt a responsibility to read a letter he had received from John Weinberg and John Whitehead (former chiefs of Goldman Sachs) the previous afternoon. The two Johns were opposed to the partners' selling the firm. They believed strongly that "If it ain't broke don't fix it". Both were committed to the notion that the partnership was one of the things that had made the firm great and that it would be a mistake to tamper with it. Corzine had spoken to Weinberg, who had assured his successor that he would support wholeheartedly whatever decision the partners made. Those who heard Corzine speak remember that he annotated these remarks by reminding those assembled that Weinberg as well as other former Goldman chairmen, Robert E Rubin, and Stephen Friedman had each, along with their management committees, at some point recommended that the firm go public. Corzine, who had been a member of each of those management committees, had supported the proposal each time and, without strongly advocating it now, supported it again.

By mid-morning on Saturday the leadership was done talking, and it was time to hear from the partnership. What followed was an impassioned debate, but nothing like the emotional response that had poured out in 1986. As had been the case in 1986 and 1996 the floor was opened for discussion and more than 100 partners stated their point of view. A discussion began in which the arguments, many of them eloquently framed, emerged in sharp relief. Each speaker emphasised his or her support for the outcome, whatever it might be, and after each speaker was finished there was a round of applause from the floor.

Goldman Sachs would never let a client have the capital structure the firm itself had, some partners argued. A global business hoping to expand to more than 20,000 employees cannot rest on a capital base that has no permanence. In a risky cyclical business it makes no sense to expose the resources of a handful of people to the whims of the world's capital markets.

Those for and against felt that they had the issue of strategy on their side. The firm would not be able to make a large acquisition without stock, and without this ability it might be relegated to being a niche player, unable to compete for all of the top business.

The discussion, which was expected to end before lunch, went on until 2pm, with people going out to get food and returning to eat at their desks.

After the long open session each partner was asked to fill out an anonymous written questionnaire for submission to the executive committee asking which ownership format they preferred and why.

On Saturday afternoon at about 2:30 the meeting adjourned and the partners left the conference centre, some driving back to the city, some to the airport. They did not know what would happen next; the fate of the firm had been left in the hands of six men of differing opinions. There had been the overwhelming sense that a majority of those present supported the idea of selling the firm, but Corzine and Paulson had made it clear that a super-majority would be needed. The executive committee cloistered itself for the next 30 hours to review, reflect, and decide. They emerged from this meeting united, and announced to the world their belief that Goldman Sachs should sell a portion of the firm to the investing public. A detailed proposal would be drawn up for the partnership to vote on during the summer, and anticipating that there would be more than sufficient support from the partnership and hospitable markets, the firm would have an initial public offering in the autumn of 1998.

Some were cynical about the firm's decision to go public. The same question asked two years earlier had yielded a resounding no. Partners talked endlessly about the value of partnership, but at the height of the greatest bull market in history they were willing to relinquish control of their firm. Others saw it differently, viewing the firm's continuing status as a private partnership as the result of inertia and nostalgia. A partnership, they believed, is an obsolete structure with which to operate a vastly expanding, global, risk-taking enterprise. The money, which they intended to spread to every employee of the firm, would only strengthen the organisation. Those who supported the change pointed out that far from being greedy, Goldman Sachs's leaders pushed for this move in 1996, when the firm would have sold for not substantially more than its book value.

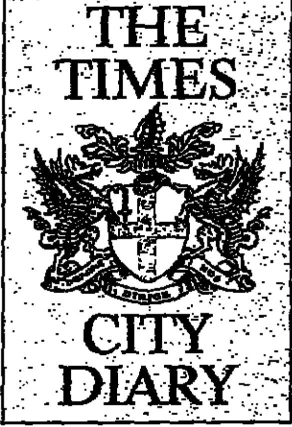
Some limited partners wondered about the wisdom of a public sale. Among those retired from the firm are partners who, when faced with the opportunity to sell as general partners, declined on the grounds that the partnership made the firm great. One limited partner went so far as to say: "A lot of us think there's a big danger here that you could kill a goose that, over the years, had laid an awful lot of golden eggs. Why in God's name would you want to tamper with something that has worked so well?" On the other side, many limited partners had voted to sell the firm in 1986, or supported the idea in 1996, but from the standpoint of personal gain their timing had not been perfect. Publicly, Friedman characterised the move as a way to husband scarce partnership capital. "We're in the longest stock market boom and the biggest one in history," he said with some prescience. "What you do is you store up your seed corn in the event of a bad period. One hears the rumour there used to be a time when stock markets went down."

On the day following the firm's announcement, its co-CEOs were on the defensive. A barrage of press speculation on how rich they and their partners would become had, they felt, missed the point of the sale. "Contrary to what you might read, we are not doing this because of the money. This is not about cashing out," Corzine asserted vehemently. "We intend to be the pre-eminent, independent global investment bank. We are going to be tough, and we will have the capital to compete." Paulson emphasised that the firm would not merge with a big bank or retail operation. The firm would use the capital provided by a public offering to do more of what it already did well, as a vehicle for growth.

Some of the post mortems mourned the passing of the last great Wall Street partnership, decrying the end of an era. Yet the importance of this transition, while historically interesting, is minimal to the industry. Did it matter that the industry leader was a private partnership able to conduct its business without focusing on the short term and the smooth flow of recurring earnings that stock markets applaud? Probably not. Goldman Sachs had slowly but surely been readying itself to become a public company. Now that the time for change had arrived, the transformation could be smoother and simpler than at any time in the firm's history.

☐ *Goldman Sachs: The Culture of Success* is published by Little Brown, price £20

Trust fund



I HAD the impression that the merger between Deutsche Bank and Bankers Trust was taking ages. But it seems the deal is advancing too fast for Bankers Trust, which has to make extra payouts to staff who will not be retained in order to comply with EU law.

The requirement is that everyone involved must be interviewed to assess if there is a post for them in the merged firm. Unfortunately, there is not enough time to see individually all 2,500 Bankers Trust staff in the City and the other 1,000-odd in Edinburgh, and anyway, it is already pretty clear who is not wanted on the voyage, so to speak.

Some dealers are on contracts that can be terminated at a month's notice, on either side — but only if they are "interviewed" first. The bank has checked with Brussels, and the way around this is to pay them a minimum of three months' money, whether or not they have jobs to go to elsewhere.



"They've found a pile of evidence"

TRULY bizarre scenes at the Institute of Directors' annual convention. The organisers, in an effort to enliven proceedings, had crafted an interlude in which children acted out little scenes giving their views on the way business operates.

Enter Mr Sock. The impromptu star of the Albert Hall was perched on the shoulder of one of the young narrators to give prompts and a sort of mime version of what was going on. Mr Sock, however, was just that, a hand in a sock, and was understandably limited to waves and other such simple gestures. None of which made a lot of sense or were much appreciated by an increasingly embarrassed audience. One senses that like Peter Mandelson, speaker at last year's convention, Mr Sock will not be asked back.

Prize bore

THOSE surveys of which brokers and merchant banks are most popular with the fund managers are becoming about as exciting and unpredictable as the old Comintern elections. An audible groan went through the City audience at the Reuters/Tempest Consultants award ceremony yesterday, the third time that Merrill Lynch pipped Warburg Dillon Read to the top.

Even worse is the polarisation of analysts. Of the 1,300 identified by the survey, half received no votes at all from any fund manager. (Cue another groan, more heartfelt this time).

The top 10 per cent now account for more than two-fifths of all votes cast, and most of them work for the top three brokers, the two above plus BT Alex Brown. And those top three get two-fifths of all the commission earned by the City.

No show

THE first award at the Tempest/Reuters ceremony, for the fund manager most popular with finance directors, went to Donald Tosh at Legal & General. When he was called to pick up his award, there was an embarrassing silence.

"Donald Tosh? Is Donald Tosh here?" Nope. Tosh and the rest of the UK equities team at L&G chose yesterday for a morale-building "away day", at which they lock themselves away and think deep strategic thoughts. Or something like that.

SOME excuses you simply cannot make up. The West Anglia Great Northern rail line, from King's Cross to Peterborough, has an excellent performance record. However, under "events outside our control" the operator this month admitted to: "Nude trespassers on the line."

Mutual aid

THE Yorkshire Building Society has dug the Bradford & Bingley out of a hole by agreeing to sponsor the Building Societies Association annual conference next month. The B&B had promised the money, but this week's surprise vote for conversion means that I doubt anyone from there will dare to show their face in Harrogate.

But the money was still due until the Yorkshire decided to step in. Derek Roberts, chairman, says the only problem is filling the extra table of ten at the BSA dinner. Don't be discouraged. Harrogate in May sounds fine to me.

MARTIN WALLER

city.diary@the-times.co.uk

THE INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS' ANNUAL CONVENTION

Young warns of US trade war



A NEW trade crisis is looming between the UK and the US following the banana wars, Lord Young of Graffham, President of the Institute of Directors, said yesterday.

Lord Young told the 2,500 delegates at the IoD's annual convention that tempers would flare again between the two countries over Europe's decision to ban the import of US beef because of fears over the effects of hormone treatment and increasing worries over GM foods. He said: "We might see this as a health risk but Washington will see this as a pure protection. We are turning Europe into a Fortress Europe for Food."

His comments follow the World Trade Organisation's backing for US penalties imposed on some European goods, such as batteries, candles and toiletries in retaliation for Europe's imports of Caribbean bananas.

Lord Young gave warning that trade was being ignored as world leaders tackled the crisis in the Balkans. "It would be ironic if there were to be an even bigger falling out of the partners of Nato that produced the next crisis, the one that would overshadow even the tragedy of Kosovo."



Lord Young of Graffham said tempers would flare over the decision to ban the import of US beef because of fears over the effects of hormone treatment

Philip Lader, the US Ambassador to the UK, admitted that there were differences between the two countries. Mr Lader, who was also at the IoD, said: "Given the magnitude of trade relations between the UK and the US it is not surprising that occasionally there will be differences of opinion. But I hope that we can put disputes in the context of otherwise succesful US/EU trade relations."

Mr Lader was last month summoned to see Stephen Byers, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, over the banana issue. Mr Byers told him that the US's behaviour was completely unacceptable. Yesterday Mr Lader said that after earnest negotiations, the disputes between the two countries could eventually be seen as "irritations". He said he was trying to "lower the decibel level" over the trade rows.

Boards are abdicating to false Messiahs

For most businesses, a board of directors is an unimaginable luxury. If owner-managers aspire to more than the legal minimum, it is usually to get expensive professional advice for the price of an occasional lunch. As the best or most ambitious expand, all sorts of new issues of accountability to an ever-widening circle of shareholders and outsiders build up. A collectively responsible board becomes ever more vital.

Aside from stock market flotation, there are few clear staging posts on the way to the institutional status of the Prudential, ICI or Glaxo Wellcome. That is why the role of the board, who should be on it, relations of managers and non-executives, or the chairman and the chief executive are subject to endless dispute and covered in acres of flannel that still cannot hide the gulf between theory and reality.

On his retirement from the chair, Sir Ronald Hampel revived a 30-year ICI tradition of railing against ignorant critics. Fund managers now make boards "tick boxes" to show they are complying with silly rules laid down by committees headed in turn by Sir Adrian Cadbury, Sir Richard Greenbury and, yes, Sir Ronald himself. Maybe the rules were bad. Perhaps they obscure other cultures that can be equally effective, though all must stand scrutiny.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

The issue that dominated the original Cadbury committee was how to stop one person from having complete control of a top company and running it into the ground. Names such as British & Commonwealth, Polly Peck and Maxwell Communications head a long list.

One obvious solution was to separate the roles of chairman and chief executive. Yet many top groups, including the oil majors, Anglo-Dutch Unilever and the old ICI itself, had a strong management cadre from which one was chosen to be executive chairman for a limited term. At the other extreme, some of our dozier financial institutions had, until recently, a non-executive board filled with top strategy-setting City types ruling a chief general manager who had emerged the hard way by decades of effort. Changes of culture and the transition from an entrepreneur are perilous. In top companies, it is agreed, the board should set strategy, and management implement it. But a bizarre Anglo-Saxon fashion has developed to try to recreate venturing beginnings by turning chief executives into Messianic boss figures.

To make things worse, non-executive directors then evolve from supportive advisers into Pharisaic judges eager to find any hint that a Messiah might be false. This may be what put off heart-murmuring Dick O'Neill, who was due to take over from Martin Taylor as chief executive of Barclays.

Mr Taylor had been more strategist than manager. Combining both roles is usually too much, as the codes acknowledge. Yesterday Keith Henry was fired as chief executive of National Power, seemingly because its strategy was in a mess. Had the board been properly run, its chairman, Sir John Collins, should have been the first to go. He should resign pronto or return his pay.

The entrepreneur manager in the mould of Lord Weinstock is a rarity in the UK. Even he needed supportive chairmen and a close management group. He also left succession problems. So did Mike Blackburn, larger than life architect of the now ailing Halifax. Here the board has risked a complete change of culture. A new chief executive from insurance is teamed with a chairman who was not on the board, though he has clubland connections.

Sir Dennis Stevenson, who will absurdly chair two FTSE 100 companies, is the latest incarnation of that pathetic English invention, the star non-executive, trusted in the City to be put in charge of any company needing a financial makeover. The paucity of capable strategists is attested by the continuing prominence of ageing Young Turks of the 1960s Industrial Reorganisation Corporation and will be made worse by the demise of the London merchant bank.

They seem to achieve transitions more easily in collegiate Japan and more elegantly at shareholder-led BMW. If a figure like BP's Sir John Browne turns up, all the better. Big companies should be capable of being run by competent managers and chairmen with no pretensions to Messianic status.

Richard Handover, the unassuming second choice as chief executive at W H Smith, is a better model than Rand V Araskog, who ruled ITT as chairman, president and chief executive officer to prove he was in charge.

Get an Internet grip, says Gates

TECHNOLOGY

BILL GATES, chairman of Microsoft, yesterday said that chief executives must get to grips with the Internet and digital technology rather than delegate such skills amid concern that the UK is lagging the US in the use of technology.

Mr Gates told the Institute of Directors that the US was ahead of other nations in electronic commerce and in adapting to technology because many start-up businesses had embraced it at an early stage, making it integral to their activities. He said that the greater risk-taking attitude among US businesses also helped company leaders to take up the full potential of technology.

However, he said that British business, although behind US business, was ahead of most countries in exploiting technology.

The Microsoft founder said it was "imperative" that businesses put technology top of their priorities because it was fast changing the way business operates. He said: "There is a real need for this to be not just something that junior people talk about. The management needs to get involved."

Mr Gates said that companies needed to obtain advice on how technology could best be used in their sectors. Retailers' needs would be very different from those of banks.

Grade criticises negative attitudes

LEISURE INDUSTRY

MICHAEL GRADE, chief executive of First Leisure, yesterday attacked negative attitudes to the leisure industry "at all levels from national Government downwards".

Praising the industry for employing 2.5 million people and accounting for 10 per cent of GDP, Mr Grade said: "So do we make a song and dance about our nightclubs, or bowl the rest of the world over with our skills at creating state-of-the-art tenpin centres? Don't be silly — this is Britain!"

Mr Grade went on to criticise "archaic planning regulations". He complained: "The fate of the leisure industry is in the hands of legislators and regulators who don't know it exists, don't know its potential and therefore cannot understand its problems."

He launched a general attack on Britain's lack of appetite for innovation and new ideas in business. He said it was a "deep malaise which has for too long infected the British pysche".

REPORTS by Christine Buckley

Harnessing the airwaves

THE ICE BOX
THE HOT NEWS ON INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

It is usually only large media companies or maverick music enthusiasts who undertake the complex and expensive process of setting up a radio station. Technology is making it increasingly affordable and straightforward, however, for all kinds of businesses to set up temporary radio stations as part of their marketing strategies.

Companies that have used so-called "limited licence radio" include TGI Friday, the restaurant chain, Lakeside, the Essex shopping centre, and *The Rugby Evening Telegraph*. Limited licence radio has also been used to promote events such as the Machine Tools and Technology Association's annual conference at Birmingham's NEC.

The process of bidding for a temporary licence — which gives the holder the right to broadcast for up to 28 days — then getting hold of the equipment needed to set up a station, is becoming simpler thanks to a handful of tiny high-tech media companies that specialise in organising broadcasts. One such is Show FM.

Show FM approaches the Radio Authority (RA) on behalf of its clients, and attempts to justify why they should be given licences. Although the cost of applying for a licence is tiny (a £200 application fee, plus about £80 a day), bidders must convince the RA that their proposals will "broaden choice".

Of course, companies have to step up their marketing activities to boost awareness of their temporary radio stations, although Show FM argues that simply putting a huge mobile radio studio in a crowded town centre often does the job.

But how effective are temporary radio stations, and how much do they cost? Research carried out by Mirror Group, the national and regional newspaper company, suggests that limited licence stations can achieve market share of up to 31 per cent, within a ten to 12-mile broadcast radius. The total cost to the client, meanwhile, is typically between £800 and £1,500 per day, according to Show FM.

Given this relatively modest cost (it can cost up to £70,000 for one full-page advert in a national newspaper) — and the fact that much more airspace is about to be made available by the RA when digital radio arrives — means limited licence radio stations look likely to become an increasingly important part of many companies' marketing strategies.

☐ WORKERS will soon be able to reproduce their office desktops on their laptop or home PCs, thanks to software from Sun Microsystems. The software, called i-Planet, creates a "virtual workspace" by allowing workers to access their office software applications, calendars, personal files and e-mail, via the Internet.

☐ LUCENT Technologies, the telecoms equipment manufacturer, has invented a device that can speed-up the process of downloading files from the Internet, and ease Internet congestion. IPWorX "detects and anticipates" Internet traffic volume, and is able to replicate Web pages without the viewer noticing anything but the lack of waiting time, Lucent says.

CHRIS AYRES

How far will tax tide rise?

Keith Daniels on the subtle forces that are exerting pressure for fiscal harmonisation throughout the EU

I recently addressed an audience of UK executives on the issues surrounding attempts to promote harmonisation of corporate taxation throughout Europe. To my surprise, although the topic was well understood, there was little appreciation of the degree to which UK tax law has already been influenced by the European dimension.

However, all those present sensed a hidden agenda to raise the burden of corporate taxes as high as practicable, and the focus moved to the rates of corporate tax charged throughout Europe. Rates, though, are not the key driver in this debate. The tax base to which they are applied is far more significant.

As Gordon Brown has shown on more than one occasion, the Government can raise additional tax revenue by careful manipulation of the tax base while cutting headline rates to attract favourable media coverage.

The top-down approach to European tax harmonisation, as tried in Germany, has seemed to run into the buffers and other issues have emerged to attract the media's attention. But is that the end of the matter? In my view, it is not.

We have ceded part of our sovereignty to Europe already. Principles of European law can be used to challenge domestic legislation, and UK courts are becoming more confident in giving rulings based on these principles. Harmonisation of the tax system by judicial interpretation will take a very long time, but the process will grind on and common interpretations will result.

The much-criticised proposed directive on a common system of applying withholding tax to interest has caused a stir, particularly in London's eurobond market. The essence of the directive is to counter evasion of personal tax due on undisclosed deposits held outside a tax authority's jurisdiction.

However, as originally drafted, the directive would potentially cause the eurobond market to seek a new home outside the EU, and thousands of jobs would be at risk.

The national veto could be used to defeat the European Commission's proposals, but clearly it would be preferable if an accommodation could be reached that did not require use of such a blunt instrument. This attempt at harmonisation can be seen as an unwelcome visitor coming through the political front door. Yet there are other more subtle harmonisation steps occurring at the political back door.


Keith Daniels says court rulings may foster harmonisation

A fundamental principle of international law is that one nation will not normally enforce collection of another's tax. Last year, the Commission recommended a directive amendment that, if adopted, might require the Inland Revenue prospectively to enforce collection of, say, Italian tax from a UK company operating in Italy — a big change in policy, with overtones in terms of harmonisation.

The most significant difficulty for advocates of harmonisation is measuring the tax base. Quite apart from differing fiscal codes, there is not, as yet, a uniform measure of accounting profits throughout the EU. International accounting standards are gaining in credibility, but it may be many years before universal recognition is secured.

The information age will also have its effect. With modern electronic communications, does each company in a group require its own support services? Shared service centres are becoming a reality, with one company in a worldwide group providing, say, the accounts function to all group members. Differences between jurisdictions are thereby highlighted, which may influence investment decisions.

Tax competition, too, will play a part. Globally-mobile investment will be drawn to jurisdictions with attractive fiscal regimes. Losers will complain of unfair competition, but eventually will play the same game or face damaging economic consequences.

A common currency may be a precursor to further political, social and economic integration in Europe. The Big Bang approach to tax harmonisation is unlikely ever to succeed, but there are other agents. Court rulings, international accounting harmonisation and integration of big multinationals will all influence the pace and direction of change.

Just as an incoming tide, harmonisation will eventually reach a high water mark.

Keith Daniels is President of the Chartered Institute of Taxation and a KPMG partner

Judgment call on internal controls

There is but one problem with the Turnbull report. The appliance of judgment is considered old hat. This is unfortunate because the report depends, quite rightly, on the directors of listed companies reaching conclusions based on judgment and then communicating them to shareholders.

The whole area of internal controls has been fraught for the same reasons. While other areas of corporate governance have been sorted out so that a combined code now exists and is in force, the business of internal controls has had a convoluted journey.

It has gone through many permutations since it was advocated by the original Cadbury code. But now it has come home in a good and challenging form. Once it was suggested that only financial internal controls should be subject to corporate governace guidance. Now it has been widened to include everything in the burgeoning internal controls basket.

So directors will now have to have a review system embedded within the company enabling them to reach a view on everything from risk management and fraud to health and safety and environmental factors.

The report, named after its chairman, Nigel Turnbull, the Rank Group's finance director, states that "a company's system has as its principal aim the management of risks that are significant to the fulfilment of its business objectives with a view to safeguarding the company's assets and enhancing over time the value of shareholders' investment". In short, this stuff deals with the heart of a company. If this goes wrong then the company goes down. "Internal control," Turnbull will tell you, "takes governance right into the heart of business."

[redacted]

ROBERT BRUCE

This may not go down well with company directors. Nor will Turnbull's view that the result of the processes that his report unleashes "forces the board of directors to understand the business".

To an outsider this may seem odd. What are directors doing there if they do not understand the business?

What Turnbull is getting at is that many directors take a similar view to Sir Ronald Hampel of ICI when he ran the Hampel Committee on Corporate Governance. Underlying it is the idea that companies should be prosperous and all this corporate governance stuff just gets in the way. Turnbull knows that directors ought to understand the internal controls, but they tend to just assume that these things happen.

With the new guidance in place, this complacency will no longer be possible. The system will have to be embedded in the company. Boards of directors will have stringent responsibilities to assess the effectiveness of those systems and ensure that all weaknesses are being remedied.

They will have to monitor changes in the system and then disclose their findings in the annual report. There they will have to report that they have reviewed the system's effectiveness and disclose any material failings and what they have done, or intend doing, about them.

The intention is to avoid "boilerplate" corporate governance statements where a verbal formula clouds any understanding. Roger Davis, the head of professional affairs at PricewaterhouseCoopers, was the deputy chairman of the Turnbull committee. He is an enthusiast for companies explaining clearly. "If you pick up ICI's report, you find it is all boilerplate," he said. "The shareholders cannot make anything of it."

The report is a breakthrough. But the enthusiasm for judgment being exercised and its results being reported goes against the grain of the corporate world.

Company directors, and their auditors, both internal and external, have come to hate the idea of judgment these days. Partly, it is the problem of litigation. If you exercise judgment and things go wrong, then the lawyers will be set upon you.

This is not just typical within companies. As the senior partner of one of the largest firms put it to me last week, society in general is now much more intolerant of failure. People come under greater fire for failure. So they prefer to follow rules they can then either cite or blame, depending on the results of their actions. And that makes them safer should litigation follow.

Once upon a time, accountants used their judgment first and then, only secondly, checked to see if the chosen solution was in line with the existing rules. Now the process tends to be the other way round.

This makes the place of the Turnbull report a difficult one. The hope is that companies will see greater benefit in explaining things to stakeholders and increasing the worth and stability of their business by so doing.

If everyone instead pulls down the shutters and goes off to consult the lawyers then businesses are hardly likely to retain their dynamism. It is time for arguments on the issue of how judgment gives you a competitive edge.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Running just to stand still

ASK most senior people in the Big Five accountancy firms what worries them most and they tend to respond: "Recruiting more good people to keep growth running at high levels."

Certainly, the message seems to have hit home at KPMG. It has a poster campaign running that shows an athlete bursting through the winning tape in a heady mix of achievement and triumph. The message reads: "Know how it feels" and gives you the telephone number of KPMG Consulting.

Commuters walking across London Bridge into the City have been puzzled that one of these massive posters has been stuck on the roof of a barge moored beside the bank of the Thames below.

This may seems to be an odd place to have a poster. Not so. It is placed directly opposite the glass walls that constitute London Bridge City, home of the consulting business of rival firm PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Bonding

HISTORY was made at the Scots ICA annual meeting. For the first time, an accountancy body has voted to allow non-accountants, lay people, on its council. People were casting around as to who might qualify for the two places that will be set aside for less numerate but interested people.

Representatives of consumers' bodies and the like were suggested. But the institute really doesn't have to look that far. Sean Connery is tub-thumping his way around the hills and glens at the moment with a view to doing worrying things with a claymore to opposing politicians. The actor would certainly shake up a council meeting.

Image problem

ACCOUNTANTS are famously those people who never own up to their real occupation at parties. But it may all be changing. There is another business which, by all accounts, reckons that its image has plummeted as low as it can go. And that is information technology.

According to a report in *MicroScope* magazine, the chief executive of Cap Gemini in the UK has taken to the conference platform to thunder that "this industry is not just made up of techies and nerds but intelligent and educated people".

And Alan Stevens, chief executive of EDS in the UK, took the doom-laden talk to its logical conclusion. "We have lost the battle with accountancy," he said. "That has a much better image than we do."

ROBERT BRUCE

Court of Appeal — Law Report April 29 1999 — Court of Appeal

Adverse possession claim fails

Earnshaw and Others v Hartley

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Buxton and Sir Christopher Staughton

[Judgment March 31]

A beneficiary of an unadministered estate who was in possession of land comprised in that estate for a period exceeding 12 years could not maintain against the other beneficiaries a claim to adverse possession of the land for the purposes of section 15(1) of the Limitation Act 1980. Paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to that Act applied to prevent a right of action from being treated as accruing during that time.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the defendant, Mrs Josephine Hartley, from the judgment on a preliminary issue in favour of the plaintiffs, Mrs Ann Earnshaw, Mrs Marion Robinson and Mrs Lucy Fielden, by Judge Barry sitting in Halifax County Court on January 11, 1999, that had the effect of defeating the defendant's claim to title by adverse possession to Height Top Farm, Cornholme, Todmorden, West Yorkshire.

Paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to the 1990 Act provides: "Where any settled land or any land held on trust for sale is in the possession of a person entitled to a beneficial interest in the land or in the proceeds of sale (not being a person solely or absolutely entitled to the land or the proceeds), no right of action to recover the land shall be treated for the purposes of this Act as accruing during that possession to any person ... entitled to a beneficial interest in the land or the proceeds of sale."

Mr Paul Creaner for Mrs Hartley; Mr Barry Coulter for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the property had been acquired in 1948 by William Hyde Hartley who was married to Mary Hartley. They had a son and three daughters. Mr Hartley died intestate in 1965, his widow becoming the sole legal and beneficial owner of the farm. Thereafter the son, not then married, lived with his mother at the farm until her death in 1983. She also died intestate.

No grant of letters of administration to her estate was obtained at that stage. Thus, by virtue of section 9 of the Administration of Estates Act 1925 her real and personal estate, including the farm, vested in the President of the Family Division until administration.

After Mary Hartley's death the son continued to live at the farm on his own. For present purposes it was to be assumed that he was in possession of it. In October 1995 the son married the defendant and made a will appointing her sole executrix and devising his estate to her absolutely. The son died in November 1995.

Thereafter the three daughters, the plaintiffs, sought the sale of the farm, maintaining that they were each entitled to a quarter of the net proceeds. The defendant maintained that the son and she successively had been in adverse possession of the farm since Mary Hartley's death in 1983, a period of more than 12 years, and that she, by succession and in her own right, had acquired a possesssory title to it.

In 1998 the daughters obtained a grant of letters of administration to their mother's estate and commenced the action seeking, inter alia, an order for the sale of the farm.

The judge, hearing the issue of adverse possession as a preliminary issue, upheld the plaintiffs' case that the defendant's claim to adverse possession was on any footing defeated by paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to the 1980 Act.

Mr Coulter argued that at all material times the farm was "in the possession of a person entitled to a beneficial interest in the land or in the proceeds of sale", namely the son, and the plaintiffs were other persons "entitled to a beneficial interest in the land or the proceeds of sale".

Mr Creaner's contrary argument was based on a literal interpretation of paragraph 9. He pointed out, correctly, that it was expressed to apply to settled land, which was not this case, or to land held on trust for sale.

He said that while the farm was vested in the President of the Family Division it was not held on trust for sale so that paragraph 9 could not, and did not apply during that period.

Further, it was argued, even if it could be said that the farm was held on trust for sale, neither the son nor any of the daughters had a beneficial interest in the proceeds of sale, but only a right to require the mother's estate to be duly administered and to receive a quarter share of the net estate on completion of the administration: see *Commissioner of Stamp Duties (Queensland) v Livingston* ([1965] AC 694) and *In re Leigh's Will Trusts* ([1970] Ch 277).

Bearing in mind its purpose and antecedents, Mr Creaner's interpretation of paragraph 9 was unacceptable. Its predecessor, expressed in substantially the same terms, was in section 7(5) of the Limitation Act 1939.

The broad effect of those provisions could be said to have been the reintroduction of the doctrine of non-adverse possession among beneficial co-owners of land, allowance being made for the trust for sale which the Law of Property Act 1925 had made an inevitable feature of such ownership. Against that background it would be wrong to give paragraph 9 the literal interpretation which Mr Creaner put on it.

Although it was no doubt correct to say that the President of the Family Division, while the farm was vested in him, was not a trustee of it and that it was not held on trust for sale during that period, it was presumptively so held and it would be artificial for limitation purposes to distinguish between the state of affairs existing before and after the grant of administration.

It would be equally artificial for limitation purposes to hold that after the grant had caused the trust for sale, under section 33 of the Administration of Estates Act 1925 to take effect, the son and the daughters did not have beneficial interests in the proceeds of sale.

As Mr Justice Buckley had said in *In re Leigh's Will Trusts* (at p282) a person absolutely entitled to a share of an unadministered estate did have an interest of a kind in the assets comprised in it. Such an interest was a sufficient interest for the purposes of paragraph 9.

Lord Justice Buxton gave a concurring judgment and Sir Christopher Staughton agreed.

Solicitors: Waddington & Son, Burnley; Ursula Bagnall & Co, Totnes.

Penalties on guilty companies

Regina v Rollco Screw and Rivet Co Ltd and Others

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Jowitt and Mr Justice Astill

[Judgment March 26]

Where a company and its directors were convicted of offences under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 the court should ensure that the financial penalties imposed were appropriate to mark the gravity of the case.

Although in a small company the directors might also be the shareholders so that any double punishment should be avoided, the penalties fixed should make clear that directors had a personal responsibility which could not be shuffled off to the company.

In considering the period over which a financial penalty might be ordered to be payable, the court could properly fix a longer period in the case of a corporate defendant than in the case of an individual defendant.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, sitting at Birmingham, so held when

(i) hearing an appeal against sentence by Rollco Screw and Rivet Co Ltd following its pleas of guilty to offences under section 2(1) and 3(1) of the 1974 Act in respect of a serious incident of asbestos contamination in 1997 and

(ii) hearing applications for leave to appeal against sentence by the company's directors, Bernard Rose and Philip Rose, who had pleaded guilty to the same offences.

The company was fined £40,000 and ordered to pay £30,000 costs. Judge Harris, QC, directed that £5,000 of the total be paid within the first 12 months, and the balance at the rate of £1,000 a month. The total period for payment, in the absence of accelerated payment, was six years and five months.

Mr Bernard Rose was fined £6,000, to be paid at £1,000 a month and was ordered to pay £2,000 costs; Mr Philip Rose was fined £4,000 and ordered to pay £2,000 costs.

The Court of Appeal refused their applications but reduced the sum payable by way of costs to £20,000 by the company.

Mr Kevin Hegarty for the company and the directors; Mr Mark Eades for the prosecution.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, referred to and gave unqualified support to the observations of Mr Justice Scott Baker in *R v F Howe & Sons (Engineers) Ltd* (*The Times* November 27, 1998; [1999] 2 All ER 249, 253 to 255) which amounted to a clear and correct statement of the principles which should guide the court in the present kind of case.

His Lordship turned to the question, raised squarely by the present appeal, of the period over which a fine might properly be ordered to be payable.

Mr Hegarty had submitted that the length contemplated here was well beyond the period which the court should sanction and that there was no distinction to be drawn for that purpose between a personal and a corporate defendant.

His Lordship said that it was plain from *R v Olliver* ((1989) 11 Cr App R (S) 10, 15) per Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, that the court there was at pains to avoid stipulating any period which should not be exceeded in a proper case.

Nonetheless with a personal defendant, with a fine hanging over him, there were arguments for keeping the period of that continuing punishment within bounds. Those arguments were much weaker, if indeed they applied at all, when one was considering a corporate defendant.

There was not the same sense of anxiety as was liable to afflict an individual, and it was acceptable on proper facts and in appropriate circumstances for a fine to be payable by a company over a substantially longer period than might be appropriate in the case of an individual.

His Lordship would, however, accept Mr Hegarty's further submission, that the court should avoid a risk of overlap. In a small company the directors were likely to be the shareholders and therefore the main losers if a severe sanction was imposed on the company. The court had to be alert to ensure that it was not in effect imposing double punishment.

On the other hand, it was important in many cases that fines should be imposed which made it quite clear that there was a personal responsibility on directors and that they could not simply shuffle off their responsibilities to the corporation of which they were directors.

The proper approach to a case of the present kind in principle was to pose two questions:

1 What financial penalty did the offence merit?

2 What financial penalty could a defendant, whether corporate or personal, reasonably be ordered to meet?

That second question inevitably raised the question of time.

Turning to the instant case the court concluded on the first question that the total penalty imposed on the company and the directors of £50,000, split as to £40,000 payable by the company and £10,000 by the directors, was, in the circumstances, appropriate recognition of the gravity of the offending.

On the second question, the company had submitted that its means were such that together with the costs order the total sum of £70,000 payable was grossly excessive and not an amount it could meet.

The court had been supplied with a quantity of accounting material, not all before the judge, which caused it to reconsider the time for payment.

As already indicated, a longer period for payment was acceptable in the case of a company than would often be acceptable in that of an individual.

Also, it was not necessarily a more severe course to order a larger sum over a longer period than a smaller sum over a shorter period, since the former course might well give a company a greater opportunity to control its cash flow and survive difficult trading conditions.

If, despite a long period, the company had the means or chose to pay sooner than it needed, that was a course open to it. In the result, the total period for payment was excessive and with some hesitation the court would reduce it; not by reducing the fine, but by reducing to some extent the sum of costs to be paid, from £30,000 to £20,000, thus shortening the overall period of payment from six years and five months to five years and seven months.

Solicitors: Charles Russell; Mr Stephen Swan, Southwark.

Appeal court must give reasons

Regina v Snaresbrook Crown Court, Ex parte Input Management Ltd

Before Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Blofeld

[Judgment March 4]

On an appeal from a magistrates court, the crown court was obliged to provide proper reasons for its decision at the time of the decision or immediately after it, so that a defendant could know the reasons as soon as reasonably possible, see the nature of the criminality found to exist and properly to consider whether to appeal.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when allowing an application by Input Management Ltd for judicial review of the decision of Snaresbrook Crown Court (Judge Katkhuda and justices) on June 15, 1998 not to provide Input with proper reasons for their decision to reject its appeal against convictions before Redbridge Justices on November 4, 1997.

Input was convicted under section 33(1)(a) and (c) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 of:

(i) failing to discharge its duty under section 3(1)(a) as an employer to ensure so far as reasonably practicable that persons outside its employment were not exposed to health and safety risks and

(ii) of failing to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of health and safety risks to persons outside its employment under section 3(1)(a) and (b) of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (SI 1992 No 2051).

Mr Kevin De Haan for the applicant; Mr David Travers for Redbridge London Borough Council; the respondent did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said the applicant company engaged a contractor to install a one metre mirror ball at its nightclub. Following faulty installation, the ball fell, injuring two people and the applicant was convicted.

On appeal to the crown court the applicant argued that because it had done all that was reasonably practicable to ensure safe installation by employing reputable contractors, it had complied with its duty under section 3(1) of the 1974 Act and had not breached its duty under the 1992 Regulations.

At the end of the hearing, the judge and justices retired and upon return the judge announced that the court found the allegations proved, was not proposing to give reasons, and that the sentence would be increased to a fine substantially greater than that given to the contractor.

Following requests by the applicant for reasons for the decision to dismiss the appeal and increase the fine, the judge merely said that the applicant ought to have checked that the ball was working properly. No proper reasons were given for the disparity of sentence that arose as a result between the contractor and the applicant, who could have been considered less culpable.

After leave to move for judicial review was granted, the judge sent a note signed by himself and prepared some time after the appeal to the Divisional Court. His Lordship said that the court could not have regard to the note as it was not supported by affidavit nor signed by the other justices.

Even if it could, the applicant ought to have been provided with proper reasons at the time of the decision or immediately afterwards. His Lordship, adopting the reasoning of the court in *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Nelson* (unreported, May 11, 1994), said that the applicant ought to have known as soon as could be and reasonably contemporaneously what the reasons were in order that he could be assured and have no suspicion that there was no subsequent rationalisation, see the nature of criminality found by the court to exist and properly consider whether to apply for a case to be stated.

The crown court failed to fulfill its obligation to give reasons within a reasonable time and what was done subsequently was not a satisfactory substitute. The case would be remitted to a differently constituted crown court.

Solicitors: Downs, Dorking; Mr Eddie Davie, Redbridge.

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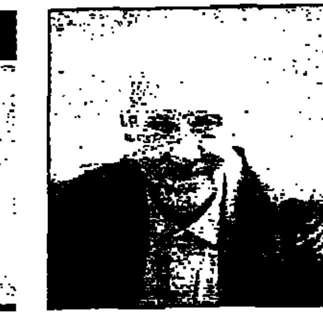
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NEW MOVIES: James Christopher sees future shock played for laughs in the amiably flesh-crawling *eXistenZ*

Cronenberg's tricks of the light

David Cronenberg has never let good taste sabotage his futuristic movies. In his latest creation, **eXistenZ**, he shows no signs of relenting. As in his previous film, *Crash*, there are bits that make you wince. But here the horror is infinitely more playful and as fabulously barmy as anything he's dreamt up before. How much of *eXistenZ* is knowing comedy, and how much of it is just inadvertently corny, is the most enjoyable puzzle of this intriguing film.

The near future is crawling with mutant swamp life from poisoned rivers. Society is hooked on virtual-reality computer games. The corporations that make them are the multi-zillion-dollar powerbrokers. The new superstars are the game designers. And the ultimate nerd is Jennifer Jason Leigh's grungy, reclusive Allegra Geller, the creator of *eXistenZ*, a game that taps so deeply into its users' fears and desires that it blurs the boundaries between reality and escapism. The rules of the game, indeed its very point, are defined by the players themselves: their morals, their principles, their psychological tics. It's virtual existentialism.

When anti-game fanatics attempt to assassinate Leigh she is forced to flee in the company of Jude Law's marketing trainee, who has never played a computer game in his life. Leigh needs Law to enter the game with her to assess the damage done to her priceless computer pod, a sort of organic vibrating jelly. The problem is that the pod plugs straight into the nervous system via an umbilical cord and a socket in the spinal column. Getting one of these fitted to the less than enthusiastic Law— "I have this phobia about having my body penetrated" — is one of the funniest and squelchiest moments in the film. As in his last original script, *Videodrome* (1982), Cronenberg is mesmerised by the thought of fusing flesh and machine.

But the beauty of *eXistenZ* is that it is disturbingly close to reality. The game transports Law and Leigh to a sort of urban warehouse land where they are pursued by corporate spies and a bloodthirsty, extremist group of "realists" out to collect the $5 million bounty on Leigh's head. The game engenders psychosis, and any number of eye-popping twists. Law and Leigh become labourers on a production line where grubby workers hack up mutant frogs for biotech parts, and take their lunch breaks in a ghastly Chinese restaurant. Here Law, after chomping his way through the equivalent of Naked Lunch, uses the gristle and bone to construct a gun which he uses to murder the waiter with a well-aimed human molar. Ian Holm's crackpot German inventor and Willem Dafoe's gas station mechanic, flashing his familiar manic toothy grins, pop up like arcade cameos.

The real problem lies in identifying with the central characters, neither of whom plugged into my nervous system. The moody, sexy Leigh is convincingly obsessive; Law is endearingly bemused. But in a film where absolutely everything is not as it seems, it is impossible to get involved. There are nags and teases that itch away long after the final credits have rolled, but Cronenberg the philosopher is really Cronenberg the illusionist.



"Cronenberg the philosopher is really Cronenberg the illusionist", but you can't hold Jude Law and Jennifer Jason Leigh responsible for the ultimate failure of *eXistenZ*

Neil Jordan's paranormal chiller, **In Dreams**, also plays with levels of reality. I have never seen a more stunning opening, in which police divers search for the victims of a serial killer in a town that lies like a grave at the bottom of a lake. But, despite feeding on a parent's worst nightmare — the murder of an only child — Bruce Robinson's script fails to live up to this masterly visual suspense.

Annette Bening plays a housewife whose dreams of orchards and frightened children turn out to be premonitions of a serial killer's intentions. But the fact that no one, including her husband (Aidan Quinn), believes her is the film's real nightmare. Her psychiatrist, Stephen Rea, sees madness where he should see clairvoyance. The camera charts Bening's disintegration with the slick, predatory feel of a stalker. It is an extraordinary performance by Bening, who has to lose her mind in the killer's imagination to prove her sanity. You can see the hysteria in her eyes and hear the fear plucking at her throat as her dreams are besieged by the killer's personality.

You can also see exactly what beguiled Jordan. Dream logic is one of the most powerful tools of suspense. Unfortunately it doesn't always chime with the prosaic business of a Hollywood plot. The moment Bening's fears are made flesh — the moment, in fact, that Robert Downey Jr's madman steps into frame — is the moment Jordan's bubble of suspense is popped. The magic evaporates. The horror turns to schlock. What's hinted at but never explored is why Bening should be the conduit for Downey's diseased thoughts. Therein lies the better film.

Val Kilmer stars as a blind masseur in the first of the week's three sticky, slow-burning romances. **At First Sight**, based on a true case documented by Dr Oliver Sacks, is potentially the most interesting. Having fallen in love with a New York architect, Mira Sorvino, Kilmer is persuaded to undergo an operation that might restore the sight he lost as a toddler. The suspense is pinned to the statistic that only 20 such successful reversals have taken place over the past 200 years.

As the title implies, it is a success. But, rather than leaping about with delight, Kilmer is traumatised. Images slew across his sightlines, sickeningly out of focus. His blind assumptions about the world are shattered as he crashes into shop windows, looks blankly at faces and freaks out at parties. It's a powerful performance, full of petulance and frustration. Understandably, the director, Irwin Winkler, is far keener on exploring Kilmer's dislocation than massaging the tedious love interest. Needless to say, so is Kilmer. Sorvino's thankless task is to pick up the pieces and act confused. The result is a romance that is horribly lopsided and underhand, of more interest to medical students than lovers.

Somehow I can't see Germaine Greer or Andrea Dworkin breaking into a muck sweat over Marshall Herskovitz's feminist romp set in 16th-century Venice. **The Honest Courtesan** is such a frothy package it dissolves almost as soon as it reaches the screen.

Frustrated in her love for Rufus Sewell's roaring aristocrat, Catherine McCormack's low-born poet sets about carving her glamorous emancipation in Italy's glossiest brothel, the Venetian Court. Under the expert tutelage of her mother (Jacqueline Bisset), McCormack's lusty virgin is primed and briefed like James Bond. "Courtesans are the most educated women in the world," instructs the unflappable Bisset. "They can seduce a man at 20 paces with their mind." Hmm. Her great cleavage helps.

Having learnt how to devour bananas as if they were the crumbliest, flakiest chocolate bar in the world, McCormack beds a procession of drooling senators and fat bishops, and even spanks the French King into submission. To spice up the grand romance, Sewell is sent packing to Cyprus to fight a war, the Plague promptly arrives and kills 56,000 people, and the Inquisition bowls into town. There's clearly something here for everyone.

Paul Morrison's **Solomon & Gaenor** is a sharp antidote to the above frippery. In a Welsh mining town, circa 1911, an illicit romance is meticulously hatched between a young Jewish immigrant (Ioan Gruffudd) and prim local girl (Nia Roberts). They are both poor as peanuts. He sells cloth for his stern parents. She fills tin baths for her Protestant coalmining father and her brute brother, the wonderfully named Crad (Mark Lewis Jones). Snatched kisses lead to passion in the hayloft. But Solomon's refusal to reveal his Jewish identity — he calls himself Sam and won't introduce Roberts to his parents — puts him in a morally intolerable position. The stakes couldn't be higher, what with strikes, pit closures and the suspicious Crad nursing fists the size of jack-hammers.

The dung inevitably hits the fan. There are humiliations, batterings, heartache and raging blizzards to be negotiated. Thomas Hardy would be hard-pushed to pen a more angst-ridden melodrama. But, despite the final excesses, the romance holds firm around an enchanting performance by Roberts's mousey temptress, whose emotions ring as true as her grim surroundings.

There is nothing enchanting about Frank Coraci's film, **The Waterboy**. A college football team from "Retardsville, Louisiana" ends a losing streak when the simple-minded weed who dishes out the water turns into a nuclear-charged demolition man. Adam Sandler plays the 31-year-old incompetent routinely humiliated by cross-eyed team-mates. Even respectable old ladies could be forgiven for giving him a casual kicking. Fuelled by grudges and bent out of shape by his mother (Kathy Bates, reprising for the umpteenth time all the perverted charms of her *Misery* character), Sandler becomes the hero of the Southern misfits.

Despite the nonsense it is surprisingly full of gut laughs. Henry Winkler is wonderful as the depressed coach, terminally on the point of tears, but Sandler has neither the class nor wit to clone Tom Hanks's similarly challenged ingenue in *Forrest Gump*.

Even hardcore Van Damme fans will wince at his latest stunt fest. **Knock Off** is a numbing medley of kung fu fights, sadistic Russians and double-dealing with CIA agents. Jackie Chan has made an artform out of this kind of film. Van Damme makes a pig's ear out of it.

eXistenZ
Warner Village West End, 15, 92 mins
Futuristic horror from David Cronenberg

In Dreams
Empire, 18, 100 mins
Neil Jordan's nightmare thriller

At First Sight
Plaza, 12, 129 mins
Val Kilmer as blind beefcake

The Honest Courtesan
Virgin Haymarket 15, 111 mins
Soppy Venetian romance

Solomon & Gaenor
Screen-on-the-Hill 15, 104 mins
Love among the coalmines

The Waterboy
Odeon West End 12, 90 mins
College freak makes good

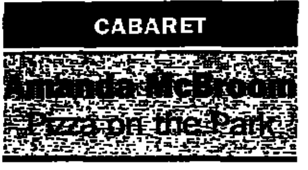
Knock Off
Virgin Trocadero 18, 91 mins
Rip-off

LINKS

WEBSITE:
Details of new and old film releases can be found on **http://imdb.com**
TELEVISION:
Film 99 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm
Barry Norman's Film Night, Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

Hurt's so good





CABARET
Amanda McBroom
Pizza on the Park

WHEN actresses reach a certain age, they often complain that the good parts are not being written for them any more. If only they were vocalists, they could turn to the bittersweet creations of Amanda McBroom.

Not that the West Coast singer-songwriter's work can be defined purely by age or gender. What she captures so adroitly is the wistfulness of dreams deferred, ambitions unfulfilled, marriages sinking into what her song *Dance* terms "comfortable despair". Songs as haunting and ethereal as *Ship in a Bottle* pin down stray emotions as precisely as an Anne Tyler novel.

This might sound like an excuse to wallow in Californian self-pity. It is certainly true that McBroom's heart-on-sleeve style can come as a shock to the British system. But she balances the pathos and anguish with humour.

Standards old and new are carefully filtered into the mix. Segues abounded, and McBroom and her flamboyant accompanist Joel Silberman self-consciously stitched together the verse of *Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered* and the refrain of *My Funny Valentine*. She and the worldly Lorenz Hart made a good combination nonetheless.

Jacques Brel provides another source of inspiration, notably in the audacious and demented waltz that is *Carousel*. Inexorably gathering speed, until the words teetered on the edge of gibberish, the song brought all of McBroom's acting skills to bear.

A more sedate waltz tempo underpins *Errol Flynn*, the poignant vignette inspired by her father, the Hollywood actor David Bruce. Barbara Cook has made this song her own; McBroom stole it back. Where most cabaret singers veer towards the conversational, she favours a more theatrical stance, abruptly leaping into the upper register to add emphasis.

Earlier, she had signalled another telling change of gear when she dipped into her high school past to treat Carole King's *Will You Love Me Tomorrow* as a glowing ballad stripped of artifice. Silberman, who has just guided classical pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet through an album of Ellington melodies, enjoyed his solo moment in the spotlight with an uptown treatment of *Don't Get Around Much Any More*. Very debonair, very Dukish.

CLIVE DAVIS


YORAM KAHANA, SHOOTING STAR/COLORIFIC

"The smile is not a skill; it's a gift," Julia Roberts says. "If you want to appreciate somebody for that, then appreciate my parents"

What's she got to smile about?

Rather more, it seems, than her character in the forthcoming comedy *Notting Hill*, or so Julia Roberts tells **Matt Wolf**

In the new romantic comedy *Notting Hill*, Julia Roberts plays a hugely successful film star, an Oscar-winning actress whose *shining smile* is worth $15 million a movie. In real life, Roberts, 31, has yet to win an Academy Award (although she has been nominated twice, for supporting actress for *Steel Magnolias* in 1989 and the following year for her career-making role as the hooker in *Pretty Woman*). At the same time, her value has gone up to a reported $17 million a picture for her forthcoming *Runaway Bride*, which reteams Roberts with her *Pretty Woman* co-star, Richard Gere, and its director, Garry Marshall.

Nonetheless, it is tempting to regard Anna Scott, her latest screen heroine, as some variation on Roberts herself. So it comes as a surprise not just to find that Roberts in the flesh comes across as considerably more articulate and self-possessed (and even more beautiful) than Anna, but also to hear the actress distance herself from her character: whatever else *Notting Hill* may or may not be, its star says it is not to be taken as a convenient essay on art imitating the worries of life.

"Just because you share an occupation with someone doesn't mean you're the same person," says Roberts, still energetic at the end of a day of interviews in the city where she spent several months filming *Notting Hill* last spring. The screenwriter Richard Curtis, Roberts says, "wrote a very specific type of actress in a very specific situation who has very precise ideas and values: I had to just reconcile the differences between us and not to judge her choices, because I didn't always agree with them."

Some actresses might balk at speaking lines in which their character envisages a future when both looks and popularity have faded. ("I'll become a sad middle-aged woman who looks a bit like someone who was famous for a while," Anna tells the English dinner table cronies of her newfound paramour Hugh Grant.)

"I don't have those concerns at all," says Roberts. "But, again, we are different people. Anna is still unsure of her own worth, whether as an actor or as a person. What is written about her concerns her a lot more than it would concern me: she's a lot more fragile."

It may be, too, that after 13 years in the profession — most of them *near the top of it* — Roberts understands the workings of an industry that is increasingly fixated on youth and on, well, locating the next Julia Roberts. "I just know who I am and what I want and why I want it," she says. "As you become an adult, you gather information and life experiences which help to form the person you are and what you aspire to be."

Of Anna's frets, Roberts continues, "I don't have those concerns and I never have, although that's not to say that one day I may not wake up and feel some of the insecurity that she expresses." And not to forget, as Roberts points out, that the scene is constructed as a contest *to see which dinner guest can be* most self-deprecating.

> 'I feel liberated and inspired by my life'

Roberts acknowledges her own career ascent that long ago found her surpassing older brother Eric in the renown sweepstakes and has now positioned her as one of only a handful of actresses within striking distance of the $20 million-a-movie (or more) earned by the likes of Nicolas Cage, John Travolta and Mel Gibson. (A third sibling is a stage actress based, like Roberts, in Manhattan.)

Has fame been a trap, as *Notting Hill* suggests it has for its main character? That notion, she says, "makes you guys" — ie, journalists — "seem so powerful. I think there is an essence of truth to it but I don't feel trapped and I don't feel like anybody has the power but me, and that's not said as a challenge. I feel liberated and inspired and empowered by my life and the choices that I make and part of the choice is what I do, and I find it freeing, not trapping."

The public, though, clearly prefers Roberts happy, flashing that now-celebrated grin that her *Stepmom* co-star, Susan Sarandon, has compared to "the sun coming out". But Roberts insists that she be allowed to pursue darker screenpaths and invokes her involvement in the unsuccessful *Mary Reilly* to make her point. With that film, Roberts recalls, "people were saying, 'Why is she so dour?' But what on earth does Mary Reilly have to smile about: getting up at 4am and spit-shining shoes? Should I be singing a little song?"

In any case, the Roberts smile "is not a skill, it's a gift. If you want to appreciate somebody for that, then appreciate my parents. If people are going to support me, or pretend to support me, my belief is that they must support my desire to be a good actor, and in order to be a good actor it is my obligation to my desire to try different things. If I did the same thing all the time, how quickly would people get bored? They would be like, 'She's smiling again; oh God, that smile.'"

Late next month Roberts gets serious again, playing the title role of a secretary who becomes embroiled in the biggest civil action suit ever in Steven Soderbergh's *Erin Brockovitch*, a Universal film based on a true story. "The reason I do a movie is the same as it was ten years ago," she says. "I like it or I don't, period. I respond on some level which is all my own regardless of what seems to be public demand."

And what about the real question posed by *Notting Hill*: could a film star ever fall for a mere mortal, as Anna does for the travel bookshop owner, played by Grant? "Look, as a working actor one is far more likely to meet and spend one's greatest amount of time with other actors. But separate and apart from that, I don't believe we are what we do. I'm not actor-Julia; I'm Julia. If you are with the right person and you have that amazing well of communication and support, then anything is understandable."

● *Notting Hill opens in London on May 21 and nationwide on May 28*

Possessed by low-tech chills

NEW VIDEO RELEASES

■ **THE EXORCIST**
Warner, 18, 1973
I THINK the country's moral fabric can survive the rental release of this horror show, long banned on video. It's the tale, if you need reminding, of the battle for the soul of a possessed young girl (Linda Blair). A modern remake would go to town depicting the child's violence; director William Friedkin prefers bursts and snatches. And just look at the low-tech bile flying from the girl's mouth: it looks about as harmless as baby food. Blair, 14 at the time, writhes and scowls nicely, but the face that haunts is Jason Miller's, as the Jesuit priest with a faltering faith.

■ **I WANT YOU**
PolyGram, 18, 1998
IN A depressed seaside town Rachel Weisz's hairdresser suffers the loving gazes of a silent 14-year-old refugee and the unwanted attentions of her former boyfriend, now on parole after a murder conviction (Alessandro Nivola). This latest film from hot British director Michael Winterbottom, inspired by the song by Elvis Costello, is his most European yet in style, dazzlingly shot on Hastings locations, with surreal atmosphere galore. Available to rent.

■ **LES MISERABLES**
Entertainment, 12, 1998
VICTOR HUGO's huge novel turns up here in straight dramatic form, inevitably much abbreviated, directed by Bille August. No great artistic heights are scaled, but at least the story takes less time to watch than to read. Liam Neeson is disappointing as the former prisoner Valjean trying to shake off his past; Claire Danes looks out of place as the girl raised as his own child; Uma Thurman suffers sweetly as the ill-fated Fantine; and Geoffrey Rush impresses as police inspector Javert, who won't let bygones be bygones. A rental release.

■ **SILENT SHAKESPEARE**
BFI, E
HISTORIANS and Bard fanciers, rejoice. Here is a wonderful tape that dips into the National Film and Television Archive for seven silent stabs at filming Shakespeare, three from Britain, two apiece from America and Italy. Primitive? Of course. But you still gaze in awe at these fragments, featuring Herbert Beerbohm Tree as King John (filmed in 1899), an energetic Richard III from Frank Benson (shot on Stratford's stage in 1911), and the Italian Ermete Novelli, most impressive as King Lear. Fine prints, considering the material's age; sensitive musical accompaniment.

■ **STILL CRAZY**
Columbia TriStar, 15, 1998
MILDLY amusing British comedy about the attempted comeback of Strange Fruit, a long-disbanded 1970s British rock band. Bill Nighy is the ego-inflated lead singer, Jimmy Nail strums a mean guitar, Stephen Rea jerks out chords on the keyboard, Timothy Spall bashes the drums, and Billy Connolly drives the bus. They are good enough company, and director Brian Gibson knows a thing or two about presenting music in films. If only everyone were not so tethered to the script's compendium of clichés. A rental release.

GEOFF BROWN

CLASSICAL CDS: Ancient French music; new Danish; passionate Italian

CHORAL

MACHAUT
Motets
Clerks' Group/Wickham
Signum SIGCDO11
★★★ *£14.99*
WAR, plague and a schismatic papal court: this is the world of the 14th-century composer Guillaume de Machaut as presented by the Clerks' Group and Edward Wickham on this enticing disc, the first of a series of three to feature a particular medieval manuscript, and other music by one composer from that manuscript.

So Machaut's motets are inset here within a framework of anonymous Mass music associated with Avignon from the Ivrea Codex, the prime source for *ars nova* music. Much of it is recorded here for the first time: the Clerks' Group is already well-known for championing neglected Renaissance repertoire, and its cunning programming enriches its fresh performances, recorded in an airy church acoustic.

The performers are alert to both the play and the passion within this music — as, for instance, a sensuous and intimate motet comes up against an exuberantly expanded Sanctus, or as a mischievously archaic ditty faces the public splendour of a post-Mass exhortation.

HILARY FINCH

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345-023498

ORCHESTRAL

■ **RUDERS**
Symphony No 2; Piano Concerto
Hind/Danish National RSO/Schonwandt/Stenz
Da Capo 8 224125 ★★ *£14.99*
THE Danish composer Poul Ruders sprang to fame here in 1996, when his witty *Concerto in Pieces* was given at the Last Night of the Proms. The recent Second Symphony, which comes to London tomorrow (played by the Brunel Ensemble at St John's Smith Square), presents a very different face of Ruders — though not necessarily a more typical one.

Cast in a single movement lasting 28 minutes, it is hardly comfortable listening, but in Michael Schonwandt's reading makes a powerful statement about our troubled times. Halfway through, urgent trumpet tattoos obtrude, followed by a long, disjointed horn theme. A background texture of ever-increasing complexity offers little respite, and insistent drums gradually make their presence felt. This is but a portent of the final relentless onslaught, underpinned by savage percussion.

The Piano Concerto (soloist: Rolf Hind) is less oppressive, though textures are sparse in the extreme. Ruders's control of materials is masterly, however, and there is much to enjoy as well as admire in Markus Stenz's account.

BARRY MILLINGTON

OPERA

■ **DONIZETTI**
Mary Stuart
Plowright/Baker/Rendall/Opie/Tomlinson/ENO Orch/Mackerras.
Chandos CHAN 3017(2) (2 CDs) ★★★ *£19.99*
CHANDOS, zealous in the cause of opera in English, has acquired some of the recordings made during live performances at the Coliseum in the early 1980s. Few evenings were more glorious than Donizetti's *Mary Stuart*. Here are Janet Baker and Rosalind Plowright firing on all cylinders as the rival queens of Scotland and England.

Donizetti upset convention by making the soprano the villainess while assigning the soulful victim to the mezzo. Plowright is full of fire as Elizabeth, breathing vengeance on all who flout her will. The dark tones in her voice as well as the chilling strength of the upper register show how right she was for the part. This may be Donizetti, but the role demands the qualities of a Verdi dramatic soprano.

Baker does not indulge in too much self-pity as Mary, stoic in the final act after giving as good as she gets at the famous, if fictitious, meeting between the two monarchs outside Chatsworth. It is a female-dominated work, but David Rendall and John Tomlinson seize their opportunites as rival courtiers. Charles Mackerras is the superb conductor: would that he had given us more Donizetti while at the Coliseum.

JOHN HIGGINS

★ *Worth hearing*
★★ *Worth considering*
★★★ *Worth buying*

■ LISTINGS

LSO's Pushkin tribute

ARTS

■ THEATRE

Lear with a difference

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

A SAINT SHE AIN'T: Barry Cryer and Jessica Martin in a parody MGM musical by Dick Vosburgh and Denis King. Ned Sherrin directs.
King's Head (0171-226 1916). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

PUSHKIN MEMORIAL: In honour of the Russian poet, born 200 years ago, the London Symphony Orchestra under Mstislav Rostropovich performs Russian music by Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev, as well as a UK premiere, a Violin Concerto by Rodion Shchedrin, with Maxim Vengerov as soloist.
Barbican (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm.



Ulrika Jonsson treads the boards in Birmingham

HANOVER BAND. The acclaimed soprano Catrin Wyn-Davies joins the period band in this concert aimed at capturing the atmosphere of Paris at the start of the last century. Works by Méhul, Arriaga, Berlioz and Beethoven feature. Matthew Best conducts.
St John's (0171-222 1061). Tonight, 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: The Pajama Game is a tune-packed musical by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross, starring Ulrika Jonsson, Anita Dobson and John Hegley. Simon Callow directs, with choreography by David Bintley, designed by Frank Stella. First major British revival for 40 years.
Repertory (0121-236 4455). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

COVENTRY: Declan Donnellan's awardwinning production of The Winter's Tale for the Maly Theatre of St Petersburg. Five-week British tour starts here. With English surtitles.
Warwick Arts Centre (01203 524524). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm.

GLASGOW: To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Richard Strauss's death Alexander Lazarev conducts the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in a concert performance of the composer's emotionally turbulent opera Elektra based on the Greek myth.
Royal Concert Hall (0141-287 5511). Tonight, 7.30pm.

MANCHESTER: The distinguished violinist Pinchas Zukerman opens his concert here with something of a curiosity, a work by Mozart's youngest son Franz Xaver. This is followed by pieces by Takemitsu and sonatas by Schumann and Brahms. Marc Neikrug accompanies on the piano.
Bridgewater Hall (0161-907 9000). Tonight, 7.30pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

■ **PLENTY:** Cate Blanchett plays David Hare's heroine in her years of dissent from 1943 to the 1960s. Jonathan Kent directs first major revival for 21 years. See review, right.
Albery (0171-369 1740).

□ **THE BIRTHDAY PARTY:** Prunella Scales and Timothy West head a strong cast in Pinter's first full-length play, meritorably joining comedy and menace. Joe Harmston directs.
Piccadilly (0171-369 1734).

■ **SLEEP WITH ME:** Penny Downie, Jonathan Hyde and Adrian Lukis star in Hanif Kureishi's tragi-comic satire exposing the chaotic lives of a group of friends. Anthony Page directs.
Cottesloe (0171-452 3000).

■ **MAMMA MIA!:** Enjoyable musical that tells a tale of three fathers of a bride in order to steer a barmy way through a torrent of Abba hits.
Prince Edward (0171-447 5400).

□ **SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER:** Sheila Gish plays the venomous mother and Rachel Weisz the traumatised niece in the famous Tennessee Williams shocker. Sean Mathias directs.
Comedy (0171-369 1731).

□ **MAKING NOISE QUIETLY:** Dominic Dromgoole's Oxford Stage Co opens a London season with Robert Holman's trilogy of short plays where strangers meet at a time of war.
Whitehall (0171-369 1735.

□ **THE GIN GAME:** Dorothy Tutin and Joss Ackland play old folk in a retirement home whose card-playing styles echo their sad lives. Frith Banbury directs the Pulitzer winner.
Savoy (0171-836 8888).

□ **THE DISPUTE:** Superb production by Neil Bartlett of his translation of Marivaux where four imprisoned adolescents meet the world and each other for the first time.
Lyric, W6 (0181-741 2311).

□ **SPRING AWAKENING:** Theatre 28's highly praised production of Wedekind's once banned play of schoolboy love, abortion and parental hypocrisy. Stephen Henry directs.
Tristan Bates (0171-240 3940).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

8MM (18): Nicolas Cage, in his most magnetic role ever, plays a private eye who sifts the ugly facts surrounding a snuff movie. Director Joel Schumacher lets a devious plot ride roughshod over the deviant issues. A pleasure nonetheless.

BESIEGED (PG): Bernardo Bertolucci's touch in this strange romance between David Thewlis and Thandie Newton is exquisitely light and subtle. A vintage romance and a thrilling film.

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (12): A corked romance with Kevin Costner and Robin Wright Penn. A tear-jerker. Take a life-jacket. Luis Mandoki directs.

THE BRYLCREEM BOYS (15): Unbelievable Irish baloney set in a Kildare prisoner-of-war camp in 1941. With Gabriel Byrne, Joe McGann and Angus MacFadyen. Terence Ryan is responsible.

OUT OF THE PRESENT (U): Russian space documentary. A seriously slippery account of endurance. Andrei Ujica directs.

DANCE WITH ME (PG): A kitsch feast for Come Dancing enthusiasts with a little Latin heartache on the side. Randa Haines directs.

MISADVENTURES OF MARGARET (15): Brian Skeet's urban romance throws Parker Posey and Jeremy Northam into a dismal, sex-obsessed potboiler. It's awful.

CURRENT

AN IDEAL HUSBAND (PG): Oliver Parker's sumptuous homage to Wilde's ever-fashionable play is hijacked by Rupert Everett's madly charming Lord Goring. With Jeremy Northam and Cate Blanchett.

HAPPINESS (18): Poisonous but gripping black comedy about dismal urban attempts to find happiness. Todd Solondz's film walks an original, edgy line between fantastic humour and ghastly habits.

PROMETHEUS (15): Tony Harrison's dense, awesome film-poem is a work of surreal genius and endless layers. Michael Feast is camp and compelling as Zeus's flunky who looks at what exactly we have achieved and destroyed with his stolen fire. It's hard work.

A CIVIL ACTION (15): Meaty courtroom drama with John Travolta and Robert Duvall in sparkling form as two sharks in a multi-million dollar case about toxic dumping. Steven Zaillian directs.



Cate Blanchett's Susan Traherne with Debra Gillett as her bohemian friend and Julian Wadham as her put-upon husband in *Plenty*

Crazy pieces of Cate

THEATRE

Plenty
Albery

Whether or not *Plenty* is David Hare's finest play, and there are sage voices who make that claim, it certainly has one great strength. Does anyone write better parts for women than Hare? And can you think of a character who makes more demands on an actress's mind, heart and stomach than the one that, 21 years after the premiere of the play, Cate Blanchett robustly tackles for the Almeida company?

When we meet her Susan Traherne it is London in 1962, and she is a middle-aged Foreign Office wife about to leave the husband whose career she has ruined. Then the scene switches back to occupied France in 1943, and we begin to see the reasons for her decline. She is a 17-year-old British agent, meeting a spy who has dropped by parachute into Gestapo country, and, despite the tears that suddenly erupt from a seemingly controlled Blanchett, she feels purposeful, significant, even patriotic.

Hare's point is that we emerged from the Hitler war believing that England would soon flow with milk and honey. "Plenty" was promised; but, by the time Hare's darting, cinematic narrative has reached mid-1962, what has mainly been delivered is thwarted dreams.

This seemed a pretty simplistic summary of recent history back in 1978 — didn't Hare's political friends get their hands on our education system, for instance, and make an awful hash of it? — and it does so still. Yet the writing is always lively and often funny, and the central role (in a production sponsored by AT&T) more than that. Susan is a muddle and a puzzle, a conformist rebel and a destructive idealist. Her war left her longing for a nation fit for heroes. It also made her tricky and callous, restless and self-absorbed.

Blanchett gives us more of these contradictions than either Kate Nelligan, whose 1978 Susan erred on the intellectually incisive side, or Meryl Streep, whose big-screen Susan streeped about altogether too forlornly. We watch her moping over the advertising copy she has been hired to write, firing her gun at the affable prole who has failed to make her pregnant, raging at the perversity of Suez, smashing her posh flat in useless protest against the wealth she thinks is killing her, and impotently trying to rediscover that lost youth in France. All this asks Blanchett to be svelte and assured, bitter and brassy, crazily aggressive, and, as when her doomed hopes of motherhood enter the emotional equation, oddly vulnerable; and Blanchett gives us the lot.

If she occasionally pushes zaniness towards melodrama, she has a built-in excuse, which is that, as she herself says, Susan "likes to lose control". Her performance reinforced my regard both for the play, which can seem didactic, and for the character, a far more intriguing lady than Hare priggishly suggested when he said he was showing "the struggle of a heroine against a deceitful and emotionally stultified class".

Add Maria Björnson's series of period-picture sets; throw in able performances from the rest of Jonathan Kent's cast, including Julian Wadham as Susan's put-upon spouse, Debra Gillett as her bohemian-drifter friend, and Richard Johnson and Jeremy Child as senior diplomats; and you have *Plenty* enough to enjoy.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

● *This review appeared in some editions of* The Times *yesterday*

Hop off, squawking

Frogs
Nottingham Playhouse

Sondheim had a go at turning this Aristophanes comedy into a musical, but it didn't work. And Fiona Laird's attempt (sponsored by Sainsbury's Checkout Theatre) is a real mess, seldom funny, unexciting and a punishment to hear.

You could say that her translation honours the script in keeping dozens of the passing references to political events in Athens in the final year of the Peloponnesian War. If you wish to know what the reactionary author thought of the democratic leaders in 405BC you may be able to catch a remark if the actor's mike is properly attached and adjusted. But you would also have to be sitting where these supposed aids do not turn actors' voices into babble and squawk.

The plot tells of an Athens in need of a clear-sighted man who will save the city. A knockabout Dionysus journeys down to Hades to find one, crossing the lake where the eponymous amphibians croak their famous "Brekeke-kex, ko-ax, ko-ax!" The recently dead Euripides and the older, grimmer Aeschylus compete to be chosen, mouthing chunks of their verse at a pair of scales to see which will carry the greater weight.

Two and a half millennia ago an audience would have relished the allusions and understood what Aristophanes was proposing as the city's only hope. What chance have we of distinguishing between forgotten leaders and quotations from lost tragedies, even if half the sentences uttered were not scrambled in the journey from stage to audience?

Evidently the production has been mounted on a lean budget — characters double up on roles with no change of costume — but shortage of cash need not mean poverty of invention. When Jonjo O'Neill turns from playing Dionysus's Belfast-born slave to a leather-jacketed Euripides he elects to keep the same accent.

Laird's chief concern seems to be to get energy into her song and dance routines (the music is also hers). Inevitably the style embraces various pop genres, with Jonathan Kemp's Aeschylus favouring gospel and Euripides hurtling into rap. The words are incomprehensible, of course, and without words and a sense of imminent danger the play collapses into pointless, mirthless silliness.

JEREMY KINGSTON

What's Yiddish for Bard?

Yiddish Queen Lear
Southwark Playhouse

Lear as a woman? Well, we get used to that. Lear living in 1930s New York? *Plus ça change!* Lear as a female Yiddish star of the Thirties New York stage? Time to explain.

Julia Pascal's charmingly quirky new play is both a free reworking of Shakespeare and a homage to the lost world of Yiddish theatre. The language of the *shtetl*, given dramatic form in Eastern Europe and exported by emigrants to New York, gave voice to a rich and varied theatrical tradition until its culture was wiped out in the war. Pascal takes us on a whistle-stop tour of the full range, from sparkling music-hall comedy and plaintive song to improvisation, while showing an endearing lack of reverence for her subject. Her play opens with three terrible actors auditioning for a Yiddish Hamlet, each of whom mangles the inevitable to-be-or-not-to-be soliloquy to predictably awful effect.

But Pascal also offers a moving snapshot of prewar Yiddish culture and its clash with the American way of life; and this is where *Lear* comes in. Her Lear is Esther Laranovska, once the most famous Yiddish actress on Broadway. Turned 60 and losing her health, she decides to hand over her theatre business to her three daughters.

One, Channa (read Cordelia), says she wants nothing, and gets nothing; the other two, Gail and Rachel (Goneril and Regan), take it all and buy themselves a new nightclub. When Esther interferes in their twisted personal life, they throw her out on the street, where she busks and sleeps rough with her loyal friends Annie and Joseph (the Fool and Kent, loosely) until Channa whisks them back to Europe. As in *Lear*, though here with a chilling historical twist, things end ill for all.

The two idioms rub along well for the most part. Esther is played by Ruth Posner (herself a survivor of the Warsaw ghetto) with a touching blend of distraction and dignity. Of the rest of the cast, all of them strong and idiosyncratic, the three sisters are best. The lovely Natasha Pollard makes a sweet Channa; Tiffany Papageorge as Rachel and particularly Amanda Boxer as Gail are gloriously selfish and bitchy.

NIGEL CLIFF

■ **DANCE**
Place in the limelight

ARTS

■ **RADIO**
Excessive Dando reaction?

Bad news, badly done

BROADCASTING: Peter Barnard on the day the BBC got it terribly wrong when covering the violent death of one of its own

I met Jill Dando only twice and interviewed her only once, by telephone, for *The Times*. The interview was for a piece about local radio and I wanted to speak to someone of her stature who had started out in the make-the-tea, read-the-news milieu that local radio was in her day and, to a large extent, remains now.

Dando was in some far-flung location, filming for BBC1's *Holiday* programme, when she got the message that I would like to speak to her. An arrangement was made that she would telephone me at 3pm one day. The call came no more than three minutes after that time. She began with a profuse apology for being "late".

Much has been said and written in the past few days about Dando's humility and lack of affectation and I think that my experience of her confirms both. She was also a person with a sense of proportion, so one must wonder what on earth she would have made of the coverage of her murder on the day that it happened.

Radio 5 Live was essential listening on Monday afternoon, but there were moments — too many moments — when some listeners must have echoed the feelings of a letter in *The Times* yesterday from a reader who said that the "effusiveness of the BBC's coverage of the event was out of all proportion . . . " Yes, I am afraid it was.

Ian Payne's afternoon show on 5 Live bore the brunt. Let it be said right away that Payne and his producer were in an extremely difficult position, given that the story of the day concerned someone virtually every BBC broadcaster knew. It was understandable that such people would have their emotions on show.

There is, however, a requirement to respond to tough situations with tough decisions. Restraint is everything, hype must be ruthlessly expunged, exaggeration has no place. A story such as Dando's murder tells itself and should be allowed to do so. That did not happen on Monday, when we were treated to the worst excesses of the touchy-feely era.

The result was coverage that became embarrassing, save for the moment when Nick Ross, Dando's co-presenter on *Crimewatch UK* and an outstanding broadcaster of consummate moderation, came on the line. The exchange began along these lines. Payne: "This is the worst day ever, isn't it?" Ross: "I wouldn't quite go that far . . . " I should think not.

On every BBC news bulletin that I heard or saw, Dando was referred to throughout as "Jill". This was unprecedented. It was also proof that the BBC had allowed its own relationship with Dando to come between it and the story. The use of the first name on its own amounts to editorialising, for it puts the subject of the story in a category separate from all others. This was news for grown-ups being treated as if it were an item on the children's programme *Newsround*.

In the evening BBC1 ran a half-hour tribute to Dando, fronted by Desmond Lynam. It was dreadful, a thrown-together collage transmitted in haste to be repented at leisure. Just when we needed Dando the three-dimensional person, we got more of the two-dimensional presenter we already knew. It sold her short and it was unworthy of the BBC, which hardly ever puts out tribute programmes so soon after a death. Why did it happen this time?

My mind went back to the sudden, though natural, death of Brian Redhead a few years ago. An important story, but one that was seriously overcooked on the *Today* programme, which at times that morning sounded like an in-house network rather than a national broadcaster. The same impression was conveyed on Monday. It was, quite simply, too much.

I liked Dando, as a presenter and as a person. The enthusiasm with which she recalled, during that conversation with me, her training at Radio Devon demonstrated that here was a household name who was proud of her roots rather than (like some) trying to bury them beneath the luxuriant foliage of fame.

Dando was a good journalist and a warm presenter. Her murder was and remains both a tragedy and a major news story. But she was hardly a towering presence on the broadcasting landscape and she would have been the last person to claim any such status. Unfortunately Dando's sense of proportion was absent from the coverage of her own death by her own employers.

ROY RILEY



John Ashford at The Place: "I don't think it's made a difference, but I've had a good time"

Godfather of modern dance

The world is about to stop turning for John Ashford of The Place. **Donald Hutera** finds out why

The Place, a converted rifle and drill hall in Central London, has long been one of Britain's most important dance and choreographic centres. It was here, in 1969, that the arts philanthropist and Martha Graham devotee Robin Howard found a permanent home for his Contemporary Dance Trust. Howard's initiatives remain the energy source for most of British modern dance.

Nearly 20 years later, John Ashford received Howard's seal of approval when he was hired as director of The Place's intimate, 300-seat theatre. Today it is primarily thanks to Ashford that, as a performance venue, The Place has become a mecca for fans of both home-grown and global dance. A singularly savvy programmer, this dapper 54-year-old has carved out a niche for himself as the UK's godfather of new contemporary moves.

Ashford has instituted a handful of ambitious, annual themed seasons including *Re: Orient* (contemporary dance from the Asian Pacific, together with work by Asian-British artists), *Spring Loaded* (a three-month celebration of the diversity of British dance) and *Resolution!* (a platform for shorter works by emerging artists from the UK and abroad, lasting seven weeks).

"The theatre's first job is to offer a platform to British work," Ashford maintains. "Yet, when I arrived, I felt that as dance has an international currency there should be an international aspect to the programme. I had to find devices to invite that work. *The Turning World* was the vehicle."

The name is lifted from T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets*: "At the still point of the turning world . . . there the dance is." Conceived in 1990, this annual season of international dance and dance-theatre was destined from the start to terminate in 1999. "It was always billed as a season 'dancing to the edge of a millennium'," Ashford says, "and then we'd stop and think."

A decade on, it's easy to map out just how far *The Turning World* has travelled. Think of it as a kind of multicultural passport, transporting London audiences to a panorama of new kinetic landscapes. Although performances are centred on The Place, additional and significant sites have been provided by the South Bank Centre, Sadler's Wells and, this year, the Institute of Contemporary Arts. Working with programmers from those venues, Ashford has been instrumental in importing work by nearly a hundred artists from almost two dozen countries, including Japan, Tunisia and, this year, Brazil, which will send the Deborah Colker company, and Australia, which is represented by Meryl Tankard's Australian Dance Theatre.

> ‘It was my decision to end it. Ten years. That's all’

A majority of artists, including a sizeable number of repeat visitors, have hailed from Europe: Belgium's Wim Vandekeybus and Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, Spain's Vicente Saez and, from Germany, Rui Horta.

Ashford casts the Euro connection in a political light. "We've gone to the north and gotten Scandinavian work, south for Spanish and Portuguese work, and east to Slovenia, Hungary and the Czech Republic. The geographical spread is very important to me. The more people there are who are knowledgeable about what happens in other European countries — whether through dance or by another means — the more we are likely to come to terms with Europe's history this century, and get on with playing our proper part in it in the next."

Neatly, the conclusion of *The Turning World* coincides with a major refurbishment of The Place. The National Lottery, through the Arts Council of England, has awarded the complex just over £5 million for a revamp that will commence in June and be completed by late spring of 2001. The King's Cross Partnership has also given £750,000 towards the 25 per cent matching funding the project requires, leaving The Place to raise an additional £900,000. All this will translate into easier and more welcoming access, a new café and proper bar, new toilets, lifts and dressing rooms, and a block of state-of-the-art studios. The building work is unlikely directly to affect dance programming until next June, when the theatre space itself will undergo its facelift.

Ashford started out wanting to be a theatre director, and in the late Sixties worked with the likes of Caryl Churchill and David Hare. He was also founding theatre editor of *Time Out* magazine. But his interest grew in dance. "So I took two years off to research dance here and throughout the world, just using contacts I'd made in theatre. I didn't read about it, or study it. I just looked at it."

The passion Ashford developed for recognising and nurturing new talent is fuelled by The Place's several choreographic residency programmes and seasons like *The Turning World*, but Ashford's dedication reaches beyond that. "Some stuff you just have to be committed to through thick and thin," he explains. "There are one or two artists, like Slovenia's Iztok Kovac, whose work we've supported all the way for reasons which are not only to do with the quality of that work."

He professes to have no regrets about *The Turning World's* imminent demise. "It was my decision. Ten years. That's all. During that decade much more international work has been presented in London. Perhaps when others saw that we could successfully attract audiences for work that was absolutely unknown, they felt more confident about taking the same kind of risks."

He pauses. "No, that's not true. I don't think it's made that much difference. But I've had a very good time."

● *The Turning World runs from May 4 to June 12 (0171-387 0031)*

Flawed airing of first draft

The second operatic offering in the City of London Sinfonia's "Greek Myths" tribute to Richard Strauss came in the form of the first version of *Ariadne*. It's not such a rarity as his wrong-headed but riveting reworking of *Idomeneo*: this marriage of Molière's *Bourgeois Gentilhomme* and the *Ariadne* chamber opera was fully and memorably staged at the Edinburgh Festival two years ago. In fact it is a perfectly valid alternative: sharper, more alienatory, but near-impracticable in terms of personnel and budget.

Tuesday's version was semi-staged, with the half-hearted, hangdog routines for the *commedia* troupe making one wish it had been in purely concert form. The Molière was replaced with a genial narration which was written and delivered by Nigel Douglas in splendiferous 18th-century costume.

He had some good jokes about new and old money, much appreciated by an audience in which, as someone unkindly remarked, the braying classes were well represented. There was nothing on the subject of what the opera might be about — a pity — and neither the blind nor the deaf could have mistaken this elegant, soigné M Jourdain for a social climber.

OPERA
Ariadne auf Naxos
Barbican

One good reason for performing *Ariadne I* is Strauss's witty incidental music for the play, but unfortunately the CLS was having an off-night — far too many fluffs — and Richard Hickox gave little indication of why he wanted to conduct this piece: fast, unyielding tempos, a depressing, indeed incomprehensible absence of nuance, lack of concern for internal or external balance in this most fastidiously scored music. Things went a little better bashing through the purple passages in the opera, but not much.

So, thank heavens for the singers, led by Christine Brewer's magnificent Ariadne, sumptuous of tone, as delicate of phrase as the conductor allowed, heroic in delivery. She's a perfectly lovely singer.

The only criticism of Cyndia Sieden's Zerbinetta is that she made it sound far too easy. It is, of course, much harder in this version, the final section of her aria a tone higher with forests of top Es and a top F sharp. Sieden flung it all off with insouciant ease in a truly virtuoso performance. Adrian Thompson was a robust, verbally incisive Bacchus, and Roderick Williams made his mark in Harlekin's arietta.

Nigel Douglas had the last word: "I'm afraid I slept through most of that." I'm afraid that for much of the time I rather envied him.

RODNEY MILNES

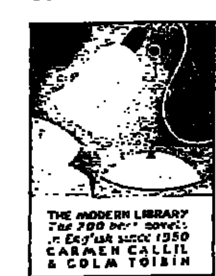
BOOKS

ALAN ADLER

The literary bunfight of the century

Malcolm Bradbury finds he's off the shelf of this modern library — but that he's in very good company

THE MODERN LIBRARY
Ed. Carmen Callil and Colm Tóibín
Picador, £12.99
ISBN 0 330 34182 0



It's a none-so-curious fact that whereas the great works of fiction from the first half of this century have acquired a firm place in the literary histories, been widely studied and placed in the chronicle of modern literature, those of the second half have not been set in much shape or order at all.

This is partly because they are considered as contemporary. Yet 50 years, in literary terms, is a long time. It's also partly because, where the literary endeavours of the first half-century have a certain aesthetic clarity, those of the second look much more fragmentary. All canons are in perpetual dispute. Still, if we consider who were the major writers of English-language fiction to the great cultural break of the Second World War, then a fairly clear front rank can be drawn up: say James, Conrad, Lawrence, Stein, Woolf, Joyce, Ford, Faulkner, Hemingway, Dos Passos, Waugh. Their great project would be the transformation of Victorian fiction, with its "loose baggy monsters", into a fiction of modernism and modernity. We are talking, in short, about an age.

The postwar period has not yet taken shape as an "age". It has seen a new set of revolutions in modern English-language fiction, not least because of the great irruption of American and other literatures. It contains its fair share of major talents. Yet the reputations are still disputed and its aesthetic developments don't look clear. Ten years back the term "Post-Modernism" served to suggest an artistic direction, taking us from the fiction of Beckett and Nabokov to that of Pynchon and Barth. But it has dissolved into a debate over vaguer matters: gender revision, post-colonialism, a transformation less of art forms than of subject matters and cultural origins.

That makes shaping a canon more difficult. We do it, of course; and at no time more than when a century and millennium is turning. The Callil-Tóibín *Modern Library* is one way of going about this. A user-friendly book, it partly acts as a listing of listings — giving us, for instance, accounts of past winners of the many prizes that nowadays go towards making literary reputations (the Booker, the Whitbread, the CNA, the Commonwealth, etc.) much as publication in avant garde magazines once aided the reputation of the great Modernists.

Listings (prizes, guides, culture supplements and so on) are now the way most artistic information is transacted. As with contemporary literary criticism itself, they are more concerned with pluralism and cultural eclecticism than standards of judgment. This book is not concerned with critical solemnities: in places it shows a dislike for academic styles in judgment. Enthusiasm, we're told, is its driving force; the books are chosen for readers "of every age and taste": "its purpose is to celebrate the writers we have loved best, and to proselytise on behalf of their novels: sources of entertainment and enjoyment as satifying as any Hollywood movie, football match . . ."

The editors' listings are called passionate, idiosyncratic; they remind us they're neither English nor American (Callil is Australian, Tóibín Irish). Thus they have good reason for taking an eclectic, cosmopolitan view of modern fiction. As they rightly say, some of the most important fictional writing now comes from anglophone writing elsewhere, from Australian and Canadian to Indian, African and Caribbean. They express justified impatience at the poor availability of many of these works, though the neglect has significantly if selectively diminished lately.

This provides the most refreshing side of the book, interesting entries you didn't expect to see: Bapsi Sidhwa, Kushwant Singh, Oscar Hijuelos. Scots, Irish (but not Welsh), Australasian, Canadian (but not South African) writing gets high rates of entry. So do genre writers: P. D. James and Ruth Rendell, Patricia Highsmith, John le Carré and Stephen King. So why not Ian Fleming?

I'm glad to see a number of books that matter to me: William Gaddis's *The Recognitions*, William H. Gass's volume *In the Heart of the Heart of the Country*, B. S. Johnson's novel-in-a-box *The Unfortunates*, Wilson Harris's *Heartland*. There are some works of real triviality and the one-page-per-book entries vary greatly in quality. Some are deft in judgment: others are no more than publishers' blurbs, and many titles prove "electrifying" or "engrossing".

As an absentee myself, I am naturally interested in the significant absentees. Tolkien is directly excluded (and some may indeed prefer Stephen King). But it seems odd to be without one of the finest novels published here in the period, John Fowles's *The French Lieutenant's Woman*. Peter Ackroyd, John Berger, Lawrence Durrell, Vikram Seth and Angus Wilson fail to make it. So do Paul Auster, John Barth, Richard Brautigan, Robert Coover, John Hawkes, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Gore Vidal and Richard Wright.

The book is provocative and interesting. Its best use is to start an argument about an era that, at least in calendar terms, is closing (though since it uses passionate liking as the criterion it's hard to argue over terms). As it turns out, it has been a major period for anglophone fiction, and the novel itself has survived most of the disasters said to be awaiting it. Now it finishes the century in good shape. This book's great use it that this is what it helps us to see.

Serbia in the grip of a deadly myth

DOMINICK DONALD

SERBIA UNDER MILOSEVIC
By Robert Thomas
C. Hurst & Co., £14.95
ISBN 1 850 65367 4

HEAVENLY SERBIA
By Branimir Anzulovic
C. Hurst & Co., £25
ISBN 1 850 65342 9

One of the more dispiriting aspects of our current moral adventure in the Balkans is the deliberate perversion of objective reality. The West is determined to see through these operations against the dictator Milosevic; yet Nato still ducks the issue of pre-settlement ground forces, the majority of Kosovans are being driven out, not massacred, and the presence of opposition leaders in Milosevic's Government suggests he is at worst an evil autocrat.

But these pale compared to the wilful unreality of the Serbs: the Kosovans are being driven out by the KLA and Nato; the pictures of refugees are faked; the Serbs are acting in self-defence. Most depressingly of all, even the most liberal Serbian voices seem to be without a word in defence of the simple humanity of the people victimised in their name. How can they be so obtuse?

Noel Malcolm has already dissected the Kosovo myth. Anzulovic's target is its overarching myth, "Heavenly Serbia" — the notion of the Serbs' preference for moral purity over military victory — and how it has led to genocide in the 1990s. Thomas provides a straightforward analysis of how Slobodan Milosevic came to, and maintained, power. Taken together, *Heavenly Serbia* and *Serbia under Milosevic* go a long way to explaining the apparent unreality of the voices of even moderate Serbs.

It is hard not to think that Serbia is stuck in some kind of cultural, historical and political adolescence. "Heavenly Serbia" is always right, particularly when outsiders indicate otherwise, and never more so than in cataclysmic defeat. Though the myth was useful in explaining Serbia's partly consensual Ottoman occupation, its application to 1990s Europe smacks of pathological self-indulgence. Thomas argues convincingly for Serbia's lack of political development. Political discourse has failed to move on from symbols to policies, and Milosevic has shanghaied the symbols. The largely urban "Happening of the Citizens" in the winter of 1996-97 seemed to show a growing political maturity. But so strong is the hold of the symbolic, and Milosevic's grip over the media and the rural population, that he could launch the crackdown in Kosovo in February 1998 simply to strengthen his position in Belgrade's post-election deadlock.

Is there anyone who can lead the country to maturity? Rarely can a people have been so ill-served by its elites. Its intellectuals were instrumental in supplanting communism with an unpleasant nationalist credo. Its literati churn out Nietzschean paeans to violence (Vuk Draskovic, the Deputy Prime Minister, is the author of a work called *Knife*), building on oral tradition and the 19th-century Montenegrin Prince-Bishop Njegos's hymn to ethnic cleansing, *The Mountain Wreath*. Its political opposition has yet to move beyond squabbles over whether Dayton is a betrayal of Greater Serbia; of its leaders only Zoran Djindjic, president of the Democratic Party, emerges from the shenanigans of the 1990s with any credit.

The difficulty is that the myths and symbols have a near-universal hold over Serbs, and Nato has acted at a time when the political discourse is too immature to resist their lure. Neither work is perfect; Anzulovic has a dire chapter on the implications of Western acceptance of the myth which repeats old canards, while Thomas's book reads like a dry textbook-in-progress. Yet both are essential for anyone who wants to know why the Serbs don't see things our way, and to work out how to deal with them.

BBC

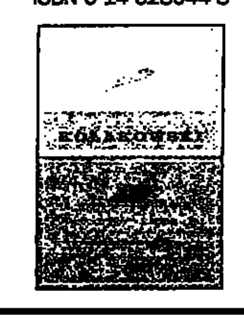

Control in his sights: Milosovic exploits his grip on the media and the rural population

LINKS
www.hrw.org: regularly updated site detailing human rights abuses in Kosovo
www.serbia-info.com: the website of the Serbian Ministry of Information

Tolerance isn't as laid-back as all that

ROGER SCRUTON

FREEDOM, FAME, LYING AND BETRAYAL
By Leszek Kolakowski
Penguin, £6.99
ISBN 0 14 028044 8



There can be few more eminent figures in the world of ideas than Leszek Kolakowski. Now in his 72nd year, Kolakowski has held distinguished positions in America, Britain and his native Poland; his writings and speeches continue to play their part in shaping Western culture. Philosopher, historian, theologian, political scientist and literary critic, he exemplifies a type of intellectual already rare on the Continent, and almost non-existent in the English-speaking world. His most important book — the three-volume *Main Currents of Marxism* — effectively put an end to the intellectual pretensions of Marx and his followers, while, in his imaginative studies of the religious worldview, Kolakowski has made an exemplary attempt to overturn the cynical materialism of modern philosophy.

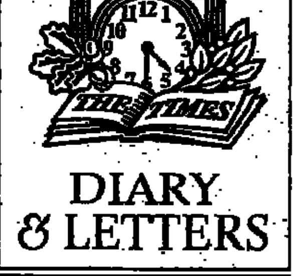
Freedom, Fame, Lying and Betrayal is a collection of short and lucid essays. Abstract thoughts about freedom, God and human nature are interwoven with concrete observations about the trials of modern life; and the author's humane and tolerant worldview is tested against the harsher human realities. There are no footnotes; the great philosophers are rarely mentioned, and modern scholarship is ignored. But the reader feels that he is in the presence of a deeply serious and learned thinker who has the rare gift of speaking simply about complex things. At their best the essays are little gems of applied philosophy; even when their light is dimmed by hesitation, they are both useful to the general reader and challenging to the academic philosopher.

Kolakowski's experience of communism has left him with a deep revulsion towards that evil creed. But his philosophy is not defined by this revulsion; on the contrary, it is a search for some positive alternative. The result is a synthesis of Roman Catholic theology with a liberal-humanist morality. Whether this reconciliation of opposites is possible may be doubted; but Kolakowski is determined to make the attempt. It is, he implies, the best that we can hope for.

Catholics are often accused of intolerance. But as Kolakowski points out, tolerance is not merely compatible with strong beliefs; it actually requires them. To tolerate something you must also disapprove of it: otherwise what looks like toleration is merely indifference. When gay activists accuse Catholics of "homophobia", they are trying to make disapproval into a crime. While pretending to attack intolerance, they are actually displaying it. Here is one point where the morality of liberal humanism has let us down. Kolakowski is surely right in this. In my experience the most intolerant people are liberals: people who can tolerate any belief whatsoever, provided it is not seriously held, and who therefore demonise everyone who really disagrees with them.

Kolakowski's essay on God goes straight to the heart of modern doubts and soothes them with lapidary words. God is "that place to which Reason, the Imagination and the Heart are persistently drawn". He is the goal of our thinking and desiring, and without Him we cannot realise our potential. That there is Good in the world counts, for Kolakowski, far more in favour of God's existence than Evil counts against it. And he implies that the chaos and violence of our times is a direct result of our loss of faith. He does not exculpate the Church for its experiments in violence; but he points to the virtue of an institution that can publicly confess to its faults.

Here and there Kolakowski misses an intellectual opportunity: in the essay on travel he sees this modern vice as a healthy expression of curiosity, rather than as what it is, a self-centred determination to be other; while in his account of violence he makes no mention of the concept of "structural violence" with which sociologists wage war on the institutions of social control. Nevertheless, the essays offer a sustained adventure of ideas, and the moral sense is constantly engaged by them.



DIARY & LETTERS

■ MAGNUS MILLS, bus-driving Booker shortlistee, fears no comparision. The author of *The Restraint of Beasts* has a new book coming from Flamingo in September, *All Quiet on the Orient Express*; publishers usually provide their reps with notes on "competition" (Helen Dunmore up against Sebastian Faulks, for instance) — so who is Mills up against? George Crabbe, Thomas Hardy and Franz Kafka, those wild 'n' crazy guys . . .

■ *PICK a genius, any genius. Over £100,000 is to be handed out to unknown authors. The Arts Council of England is giving awards of £7,000 to 15 writers with "work in progress" — and the judges had no idea who they were. Marina Warner, Michèle Roberts and Don Paterson read through hundreds of anonymous works and picked the best. The winners will be lifted from obscurity on May 27: Ian McEwan presents the cheques at London's Imagination Gallery.*

■ BERNARD CORNWELL has always spread his talents, giving his books on Sharpe and the "Rebel" series to HarperCollins and his Arthurian trilogy to Penguin. Now he'll put all his books under the HarperCollins roof for a seven-figure deal, with the publication of *Stonehenge: 2000 BC* in time for Christmas.

■ OVERHEARD in a pub from a man recommending reading to two 18-year-olds: "Books give you a lovely balance between your own experience and the world's experience." Could anyone put it better?

■ books@the-times.co.uk

Poet going somewhere, despite himself

ONCE we asked too much of our poets: they had to be prophets and lawgivers at once. Then we asked too little: they had to be as much like us as possible, make poems that were indistinguishable from drab prose. Now, with our best poets, a balance has been struck, the lessons of both modes internalised. Michael Hofmann in *Approximately Nowhere* (Faber, £7.99; ISBN 0 571 19524 5) is still half in love with poetry as description and enumeration:

the velvet curtains slowly
turning to dust on the woodwormed rail,
my diminished establishment
of bin-liners and suitcase
(our 1961 cardboard family 'Revelation'),
the Olympia Traveller I lugged
around Mexico and
two pairs of boots

The trouble with this is that it tries to suggest that attention to detail is attentiveness to the world. It also, in a very English way, tries to suggest that cold description hides deep feeling, as in the opening poem, *Tea for my Father*, which ends:

He likes it very strong, with cream,
in mugs, and sweetens it himself.
He puts it on the window-sill in front
of his table, and lets it go cold.
Later on, I come and throw it out.

Interestingly, that poem is dated 1979. Gert Hofmann died in 1993, and the first part of the book consists of poems in his memory. The coy self-consciousness of lines like "Later on, I come and throw it out" have gone. In their place is a new attentiveness, not to detail but to the immense complexity and confusion of life:

The new south east cemetery
is approximately nowhere
ten stops by underground
then bus
zigzagging through the
suburbs

The lack of punctuation makes palpable the sense of how death always escapes us. The poet accepts that and builds it into his poem. *Epithanaton*, the masterpiece of the collection, is still happy to enumerate ("Sprays of pluperfect flowers at your head,/ the swanky brass tag at your feet"), but is open to people and situations as well:

A custodian (one of your characters,
morbid and fussy and
phlegmatic) took out the
alarmingly long screws
from the coffin, as though
someone would try very hard
to get out or — you would have
said — in

This is as funny, rich and painful as a passage in Beckett. And that combination is to be found throughout the volume: in the fine *Kleist in Paris*, in the pains of adultery and betrayal.

Michael Hofmann is one of our finest translators. He moves with ease between German, English and American cultures and idioms. Less extreme than his father, more at ease in the world, but with his father's compassion for the broken and defeated, he grows in stature with each succeeding book.

GABRIEL JOSIPOVICI

BOOKS

God wouldn't believe in Dawkins, either

Is science 'the truth' or merely a system of belief?

A history of its institutions begs the question



Peter Ackroyd

In Samuel Johnson's *great dictionary* the first definition of "science" is simply "knowledge"; the history of how it has decayed into a paranoid and destructive system of specialised applications is the history which this vol*ume attempts to trace. It charts* the course by which what was once the "servant of nature", to employ Francis Bacon's phrase, became the usurper and maligner of nature.

It must be noted *at once that contemporary* science is not an all-en*compassing reality.* It is a system of beliefs competing with other systems. It is an enterprise in time and is, in other words, an activity which changes direction or shape and *sometimes even goes into reverse.* One of the strengths of this volume, in fact, is the extent to which it illuminates how science alters according to the country or culture in *which it is practised.*

Certain cities encourage certain types of scientific methodology: throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, for example, London and Paris were engaged in internecine warfare for pre-eminence in experimental matters with London encouraging pragmatic *applications.* And the authors of this book suggest that the 19th-century invention of the "campus" and the "graduate school" in the United States created a suitably enclosed and hierarchical environment for research.

In fact science has for most of its existence depended crucially upon institutions, generally male-dominated, and thus has become an aspect of patriarchal society. The *culture of learned societies was* co-opted by the State and became that of "official institutions" which supported "the forces of rational enlightenment, progress and mod*ernisation*".

Measurement itself becomes co-opted *as a State activity* — "The State established measures of assets, animate and inanimate", according to the authors of this book, "better to control them" — and thus the concept of precision was direct*ly* related to acquisitiveness and power. The authors once more suggest *that "measurement signalled* industry and improvement". The introduction of uniform clock time, with the use of mechanical clocks, regimented life in ways unknown to any previous generation.

There are other very interesting *chapters in this almost* encyclopaedic survey. The connection between science and Protestantism, for example, is firmly made. It is true that the founders of the Royal Socie*ty, including Sir Isaac Newton*, were practising alchemists and astrologers — and it is also true that this aspect of early experimental science has remained obscured in *most histories of the subject.* But the history of science in the last decades of the 17th, and the early decades of the 18th century is wholly implicated in the Protestant ethic.

One great intellectual historian has suggested that "Puritanism, and ascetic Protestantism generally . . . played no small part in arousing a sustained interest in science". The rejection of scholastic authority, the sustained examination of God and nature *beyond the corrupting* interpretation of priests, the faith in human perfectibility — all blossomed in a consuming reverence for science and technology.

In *similar fashion individual* "cabinets of curiosities" became collections, which then turned into state-funded museums where the taxonomy of knowledge was displayed; the temples of the 19th century, "monumental and imposing", which evoked "connotations of dignity, antiquity and permanence", *when in fact they were organised* upon distorted and temporary misinterpretations of the world.

In this context it is interesting to note that in the 1870s one or two brave souls dared to question the truth and purpose of Darwinism — *that, in the words of one opponent*, was quackery designed "to refer all effects to the same cause" — before being silenced by the scientific establishment.

The social *order and the scientific* system have become so clearly implicated with each other that they cannot now be separated. There is no such thing as "pure" science, only that which has become the "servant" of the State rather than of nature.

There is a very interesting chapter here on the relationship between science and slaughter. *It* poses the question, "Why should warri*ors have a professional interest in* abstract knowledge?" to which the only possible answer is that abstract knowledge is an instrument of power and of oppression. Abstract knowledge has no perpetrators and no victims: it represents a *supposedly impersonal force* which can effortlessly master the world. *The authors note how physicians* conduct a "war" against disease while bomber pilots master the guidance of their missiles with "surgical precision". The principal medical officer in the United *States* is known as the "surgeon-general".

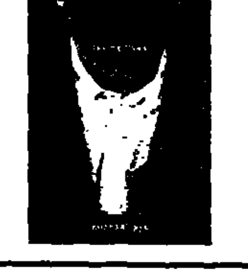
This is in certain respects not an easy book to read; the level of cliché is high. Writers thunder, sands shift, struggles are deadly and tomes are unwieldy. But if ever *there was an occasion to divorce* style from content, *Servants of Nature* represents it. It is a challenging, and necessary, book.

SERVANTS OF NATURE
By Lewis Pyenson & Susan Sheets-Pyenson
HarperCollins, £24.99
ISBN 0 00 223852 X

Dying for an identity

RUSSELL CELYN JONES

TAKING LIVES
By Michael Pye
Phoenix House, £16.99
ISBN 1 861591 09 8



WHAT'S in a name? Big trou*ble when it's not your own.* A young Dutchman witnesses the accidental death of a stranger in Florida and sees a perverse opportunity. He mutilates the face, breaks the teeth and swaps watches with the dead man. Martin Arkenhout is now Seth Goodman, for a while at least. As his bogus *identity is about to be rumbled* in New York, he kills someone to assume another identity and moves on. The places he goes, the jobs he performs are described in a twilight prose to contrast with the graphic details of the murders.

But everyone has secrets that only surface after death. *For the imposter this can be* very compromising. Arkenhout's third victim is Professor Christopher Hart, an art historian who had stolen some valuable paintings, *The Liber Principis*, from a London museum.

Archivist John Michael Costa just wants the pictures back, no further questions asked, and traces Arkenhout to Portugal. Simultaneously the Dutch police are closing in on Arkenhout after a chance sighting by his mother as he was travelling through Amsterdam on his way to Portugal. But that is all I should *reveal of this engaging plot.*

In a way, Costa is in the same business as Arkenhout, museums being the mausoleums of misplaced identity. *And from the moment Costa is* revealed as the narrator his own identity problems become as central to the story as Arkenhout's. The prose, moreover, is striking. Take this one description of a fire: "A bush burst out in neon orange, then the red *and orange licked their way to* the edge of the road and the tall, dry grass stems went off like sparklers. The brambles ran like fuses into a hedge. *The air shook so you could* hear it, like a ship when the engines start turning."

Pye's concerns continue to broaden out to include Portugal's recent *political history* and classical archaeology. So many themes and changes in character and point of view require sustained concentration from the reader, as *does* Costa's slightly awkward explanations as to how he acquired in*formation* about Arkenhout while dealing with him as Hart.

But these are minor criticisms. Precise and absorbing. *Taking Lives* is also surprisingly moving for a thriller.

In SHORT

On the crest of a wave

DANCING NAKED IN THE MIND FIELD
By Kary Mullis
Bloomsbury, £12.99
ISBN 0 7475 4376 3

THE *biochemist Kary Mullis* won the 1993 Nobel Prize for PCR (polymerase chain-reaction) which gave new meaning to DNA. Thereafter known as *the Surfer Scientist, he has* been high on a wave ever since. Now he gives us his Joe Schmoe attitude *on life,* love, alien encounters and the ruthless careerism of the scientific establishment. His view is that the bastards are out to get *ya. For all the California* Weird, Krazy Kary knows a thing or two.

Love lines

ARTHUR RIMBAUD
By Benjamin Ivry
Outlines, £6.99
ISBN 1 899791 71 X

WE are mostly adjusted now to the significance of a poet's *sexuality in any assessment of* his work, though there is an argument against categorisation of gays in a literary ghetto. Ivry's short biography is dedicated to Rimbaud as an "exceptional being dedicated somatically and psychically to homo*sexuality*" and deals fully with Rimbaud's violent, passionate affair with Verlaine. The muse of lyric poetry doesn't discriminate against poets — only *critics and readers do that.* Ivry is on the side of Erato.

No nonsense

MIND, LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY
By John Searle
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.99
ISBN 0 297 64300 2

SEARLE'S subtitle, "Philosophy in the Real World", is a *clunking clue to* his belief in external realism and Enlightenment idealism. His admits that his distaste for Post-Modernism is unfashionable, but *at least he is confident* of the material existence of the ground on which he *sturdily* plants his feet. He's a real bruiser for reality: in this short book, *he punches his weight* in defence of common sense against the effete, affected, artificial constructs of relativism.

All that jazz

A PORTRAIT OF DUKE ELLINGTON
By Stuart Nicholson
Sidgwick & Jackson, £20
ISBN 0 283 06338 6

THE current fashion for biography, exemplified by George Plimpton's recent biography of Truman Capote, as a cut and paste compilation of *oral* testimony from the subject himself, his friends, family and associates, and with minimal authorial linking narrative, *is perpetuated here to im*mediate effect. Compiled from first hand sources, it takes jazz back to its roots, profiling The Duke, one of its polymathic greats, *in this centennial year* of his birth. A terrific rap.

IAIN FINLAYSON

The moral is: there are no morals

Peter Preston wishes Christopher Hitchens would forget about Bill and Sid and move on to other things

Christopher Hitchens is *that cherishable* rarity, a man of the Left who writes with all the barbed eloquence the Right has sought to make its own. *His Vanity Fair* essays often turn polemic into an art form. He has the historic *swagger of the old English* pamphleteers. But, alas, this is a rather sad little book.

Its ostensible purpose is to reveal William Jefferson *Clinton as a compulsive forni*cator, liar, bully, employer of scumbags, friend of mobsters and shameless political compromiser. Yes, quite: but what's new? Surely there's no market left for the standard Rees-Mogg thesis with added *adjectives? What's new is the* last five pages (out of 112) and they have almost nothing to do with Clinton and everything to do with the author's awful predicament.

A few weeks ago some of Washington's grandest political *commentators* put on a cabaret where they sang barbed songs about the great and not-so-good. Thus the President, sitting there in the *audience, smiling,* was "Caught by the DNA" (to a Springsteen beat). Another song featured one "Christopher Snitchens".

The story behind the sneer is simple enough. Hitchens went to lunch with his "old friend" turned White House aide, Sidney Blumenthal. Sid *told Chris that Monica was a* compulsive "stalker" who the gallant Bill had fended off — and Sid knew because Bill had told him personally. Much *later, Sid was hauled before* the Senate and asked whether the lies about stalking were White House ones. Oh no, he said. Oh yes they were, said *his old "friend" Chris to the* House Judiciary Committee, dishing the lunch table chat. Clinton walked away unscathed. Blumenthal stayed stuck in a perjury mire.

Here's the kind of judgment call that journalists have to *make from time* to time, an ethical dilemma which can punch you on the nose if you get it wrong. Was Chris wrong to snitch on Sid? Perhaps. The *source was a chum talking off* the record. Any practical judgment at the time of the snitch was that it would make no difference: Clinton, lies or no lies, was already certain of acquittal. But these personal/professional conundrums are the devil to deal with and you can make out a good case for testifying truly when called.

The trouble is that Christopher Hitchens doesn't make *that case. He makes a six-egg* omelette of a defence in which he is "taken hostage" by Blumenthal's information and resolves at the last "that the pact a *journalist makes is*, finally, with the public". He lectures us on the "great, anni*hilating" tactics of Stalinism.* He finds, equally, that "Clintonism poisons everything it touches". And here is what is so sad about this slim volume. *It is a work of absurdly conflat*ed self-justification. It tells you rather too much about the bleeding ego of the author — and thus not much of interest *about its supposed subject.*

Bill Clinton, for Hitchens's purposes, has to be portrayed as one of history's great monsters. Monica has to be "a *defenceless and vulnerable* young woman". The supporting cast, from Vernon Jordan to Colin Powell, *has* to be uniformly repulsive. The poor have to be thrown into the gutter while the rich fawn on the destroyer of the New Deal.

This is a Ben Jonson version of *Beltway life designed to* shed a kindlier light on our hero, who stood out against corrosive tyranny — and paid for his bravery by being *laughed at in Washington* supper clubs.

Time to move on. Clinton is bombing Belgrade (and that *doesn't fit the thesis). Sid is no* friend of Chris any longer and forgetfulness blooms again in Washington. Much, much better books await the *Hitchens touch. There now,* can we all calm down?

NO ONE LEFT TO LIE TO
By Christopher Hitchens
Verso, £12
ISBN 1 85984 736 6





It's enough to make anyone clutch his head in his hands: Clinton faces scandal yet again

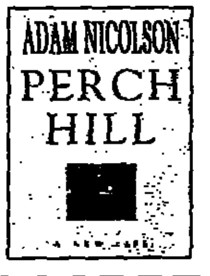
LINKS

www.impeachment.org: the grassroots "National Committee" that lobbied to impeach Clinton first time around.
www.enoughisenough.org: a site devoted to stopping "the witch hunt".
www.tarpleyweb.com/monifan: *describes itself as "The Monica* Lewinsky On Line Fan Club".

A rural idyll not mired in sentiment

JONATHAN DIMBLEBY

PERCH HILL
By Adam Nicolson
Robinson
£14.99
ISBN 1 84119 054 3



Adam Nicolson *is both a* refugee from the city and a columnist. It would be easy, therefore, to rush to judgment about this account of urban exile on a farm in the Sussex Weald. Mercifully, though, this book is not another exercise in metropolitan archness and angst. On the contrary, *it is a delight:* beautifully written, acutely observed and laced with self-mockery.

After the failure of his first marriage, Nicolson was on his uppers, *psychologically as* well as financially — a collapse of self-esteem which he recounts with no trace of false sentiment. His epiphany came after a *late night trudge* through London which was aborted when a gang of teenag*ers* threw bleach in his eyes and mugged him. Supported *by the saint-like Sarah, the* woman for whom he had left his wife, he began *his search* for a Postmodern Arcadia and ended up falling for Perch Hill *Farm:* a dreary house, some asbestos buildings and 90 acres of unpromising farmland on the edge of the Sussex Weald.

So far, so predictable. What *makes* this particular love affair with rural England unusual *is Nicolson's ability to* interweave mud-spattered anecdote with poetic observation. *So he* rages against a neighbour who pours tarmac on an ancient cart-track to protect a voluptuous BMW, but he is touched by a meeting of farmers trying to save a local market and who inhabit "faces in which the wind had broken the veins".

He also has a fine sense of the absurd. Eager for free-range eggs, he *buys the birds* and builds a palace of a hen-coop, but its inhabitants soon fall from grace as the author notices that the eye of a chick*en is "about as warm and re*sponsive as a 100-watt bulb". And when his ewes break through a fence, they not only contrive to vandalise a car but he has to fork out £3,000 in damages.

At his best, Nicolson is a chronicler in the class of Richard Jefferies or *John Stewart* Collis. Like them, he describes the land and the people who work on it with precision and insight. And, like them, he *wears his learning lightly. As* an environmentalist who knows that "an oak tree 60 foot high may drink 15,000 gallons of water a day", he instinctive*ly nurtures the concept of* "sustainability" but approaches its meaning without once using the term or belabouring the point. Nor, incidentally, does he pontificate about the rape to which the landscape of southern England has been subjected, though it clearly dis*mays him.*

Nicolson is not ashamed to wear his heart on his sleeve. One hot afternoon, when butterflies "cruised and flickered" *across a field and a wood was* "needled with birdsong", he lay in the grass and buried his nose in "the sun-warmed turf, breathed it in, smelled how *good it was*", knowing that he was right to have made the move. In moments of such bliss, he appears to inhabit a world where the human spirit and nature are at one and where he is able to discover "the undersense, those deeper connections" to which he is *drawn again and again.*

As he and Sarah become ever more rooted in their arcadian refuge, Nicolson reflects with characteristic self-depre*cation* that "the whole experience was a blunder into truth". It is a tale well told and a truth worth the telling.

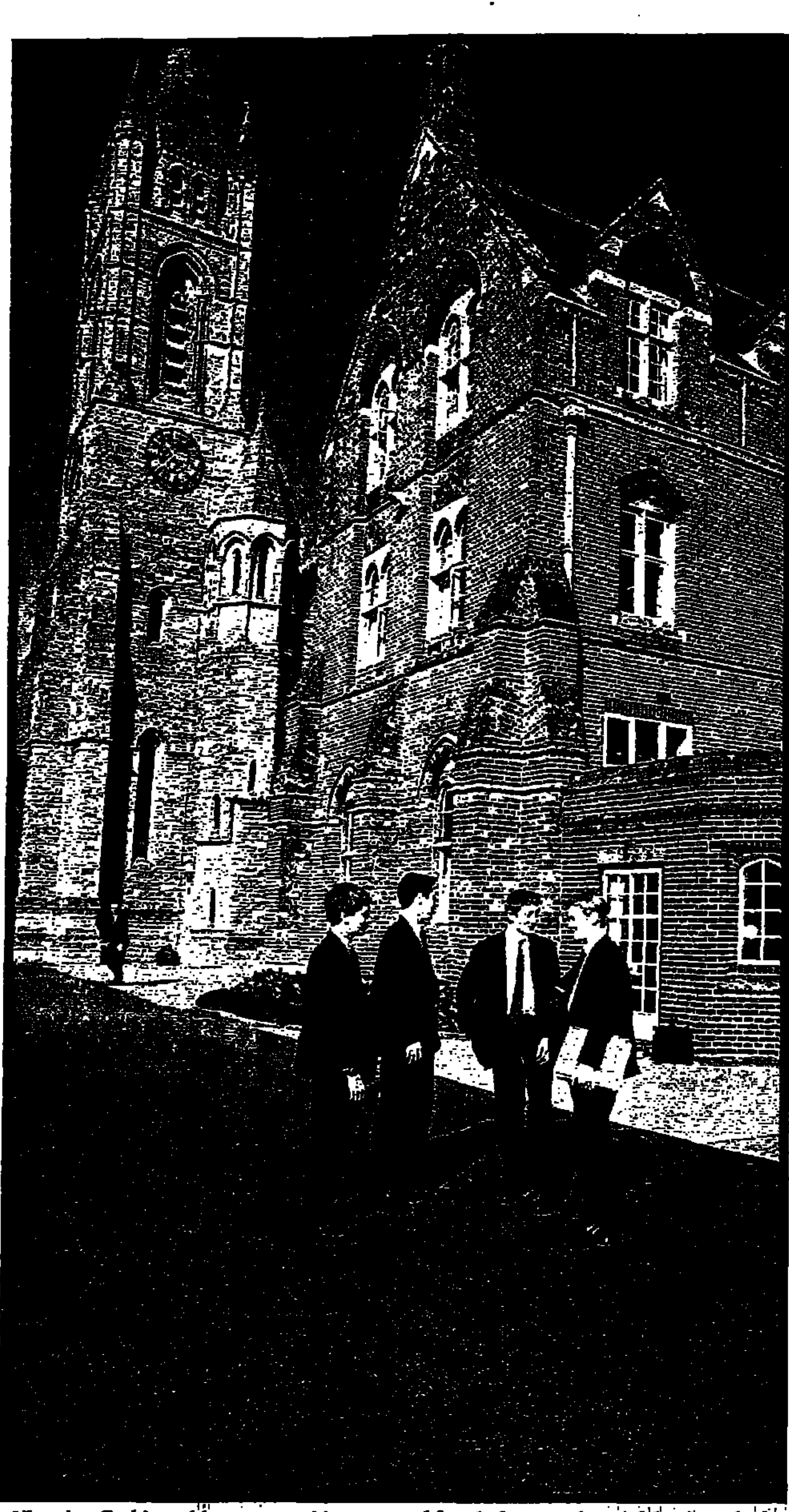


Nicolson sees the countryside's romance without romanticising it. Photo from Images



www.greenchannel.com/cpre: the official website of the Committee for the Protection of Rural England

From Victoria to the millennium



Victorian Gothic architecture provides a genteel façade for a modern academic outlook

For 136 years St Edward's School has played a unique part in Oxford life. Its new sports centre, to be shared with the public, is a groundbreaker. George Pendle presents a two-page report

David Christie, Warden

Though dressed mostly in the garb of Victorian Gothic architecture, St Edward's is not afraid to grasp the torch of progress. *Tradition is respected*, but the future is embraced and the school provides a system of education that denies isolation yet retains the bonds that hold a school together. It acknowledges that academic and sporting success (at which the school excels) are not the be-all and end-all of education.

The school aims to have a broad intake. A common entrance mark of 50 per cent, as an average of all the papers, is needed for entry — below the level required by many "metropolitan powerhouses" but it fits St Edward's philosophy.

"We like a range of pupils and that includes a broad intellectual range as well as a wide range of talents, be they sporting, artistic, musical," says David Christie, the Warden (headmaster). "Children get a better education the more they mix with people of a wide range of abilities and background; this prepares them better for the future."

In *The Times* A-level school league table last year the school came 351st in the country. And with 15 Oxbridge places being awarded to pupils in 1998 (out of about 90), the children's intellects are not suffering.

Mr Christie's philosophy and enthusiasm stem from his *teaching experiences. One of* the few public school headmasters with a background in the state sector, he originally taught at George Watson's in Edinburgh.

He then trained teachers at Moray House College, also in *Edinburgh, which moulded* his thoughts on schooling: "The old style of teacher training was a difficult, frustrating task. Things have changed, thankfully." From there he went to the European School in Luxembourg, teaching the children of European civil servants. With its emphasis on languages and understanding other countries' cultures, it was a revelation.

Mr Christie was the head of economics at Winchester before joining St Edward's in 1988. He has just returned from a sabbatical in the US, where he lectured on the Scottish Enlightenment's influence on America in the 18th century, and his dynamic approach to education has prompted many changes at the school, from coeducation to the funding of the new sports complex.

"I want to provide more and more facilities for the pupils so that they can develop their different intelligences and their different skills working together with other people, communicating with other people. I want them to be fit for life."

St Edward's primarily offers a boarding education, (there are three times as many boarders as day pupils) but even day pupils are at the school from 8.30am to 9pm. From September there will be ten houses — seven for boys, three for girls. The fees — £4,750 a term for boarders and £3,380 a term for day pupils — are not cheap. But there are many scholarships on offer for academic, music, art or all-round skills. Last year 31 scholarships and exhibitions were awarded.

With a pupil-staff ratio of 8 to 1 and a staff turnover of less than 10 per cent a year, the school is neither stretched for resources nor understaffed. It has links with Oxford and Oxford Brookes universities; indeed several pupils are sons of dons. Many an Oxford don, says Mr Christie, has cycled over to the school to give talks. The pupils also have the chance to use the university's famed Ashmolean and Science Museums.

Within the school, departments are equally up to speed with information technology. Foreign language classes spend at least one lesson a week in the computer room, on which £300,000 has been spent in the past two years.

Ian Rowley, the head of modern languages (one of the school's most successful areas) sees IT as a great benefit. He says: "Using computers allows students *of different* academic ability to work in the same classroom without holding each other up or going too quickly. Thus, it enables students to be challenged at their own rate. When it comes to grammar, using the computers helps to sweeten the pill. It is a motivation for staff as well as pupils."

St Edward's has certainly given greater priority to academic work in the past ten years than it had previously. "The world has changed; gone are the days when mere attendance at a public school guaranteed the opening of doors," says Mr Christie. "I'm glad that people are taken on their merits. The world is more competitive and children must be more flexible. We have a good number of very able pupils; we also have pupils of average ability — that is the environment in which people learn best.

"I believe in breadth, in preparing people for the future. I want them to have a good life, to feel happy and confident about themselves, able to take advantage of opportunities that present themselves and to have fun with a wide range of people.

"At the same time you hope that can happen while pupils are having a worthwhile, interesting and fulfilling time at the school. Any school that looks only to the future and forgets that five years has to be spent within its walls cannot provide a good education."



A look back in honour

In 1863 Thomas Chamberlain, a High Church clergyman, founded four *schools in Oxford as part of* the "Oxford Movement", a religious movement advocating traditional forms of worship. *George Pendle writes.*

Of the four schools founded, only St Edward's remains, having moved north from its *original site in the city centre* in 1873 to Summertown, where it straddles the Woodstock Road. The area was developed in the late 19th century.







Old boys: *dambuster* Guy Gibson, novelist Kenneth Grahame and actor Lord Olivier

St Edward's soon disposed of the OM's dogma, while retaining the magnificent Gothic architecture that had come with it. Almost in defiance of its past the school now has a woman chaplain and, most liberally of all, optional chapel attendance for pupils.

"We do not make pupils attend an act of worship on Sundays," David Christie says. "We have people here of every faith and none."

HISTORY

Although St Edward's has never been a large school (its pupils have in recent years numbered around 600), it has nevertheless produced an impressive list of old boys. Kenneth Grahame was one of the first pupils at the school.

Its verdant setting left a *great impression in his mind* and was possibly the origin of his classic tale of riverbank life. Breaking out of the late-Victorian stuffiness that had created the school, he wrote the escapist *The Wind in the Willows.*

Both boys and masters served in the world wars, many giving their lives. The chapel is a shrine to their endeavour, the walls being engraved with their names. Two of St Edward's old boys gained recognition for the roles they played in the RAF during the Second World War. Wing Commander Guy Gibson became a hero for leading the famous Dam Busters' raid in 1943. Sir Douglas Bader was also a pupil at St Edward's. He is remembered in the names of school buildings and was a friend to the school up until his death. Laurence Olivier was another old boy and played his first Shakespearean role at the school (Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*), instigating a theatrical tradition that continues to this day. Other old boys include Jon Snow, the television journalist, and George Fenton, the film music composer.

Slow to take the plunge, but girl power pays dividends

George Pendle *reports on how the 'giant step' of going coeducational brought balance and growth to the boarding school*

ONE of the most significant changes undertaken by the school in recent times has been the implementation of complete coeducation.

Girls *first arrived at* St Edward's in 1983, but only into the sixth form. When David Christie arrived as Warden in 1988 he was already looking towards beginning coeducation throughout the school, but it took nine years of consideration before they could be admitted.

"Full integration of girls into the school was considered and turned down twice," he explains. "We didn't have enough female teachers and we didn't have enough experience in educating large numbers of girls."

The school had to adjust not only its pastoral care, but also to work out the logistics of housing all the new pupils. A lot of planning had to be done, but eventually the giant step was taken in 1997. Of course the impact of that "giant step" has, as hoped, dissipated almost completely. St Edward's is now a co-ed school and you could not tell it had ever been anything else. Many of *the pupils and teachers have* almost forgotten what life was like before the change.

Nick McEwen, the joint head of school, verifies that opinion: "It was strange at first seeing younger girls, but within days it seemed like it had always been this way. It's *really made the school more in*teresting. You get a 14-year-old girl involved in a play with senior boys and she can hold her own completely."

There are two girls' houses — Macnamara's and Oakthorpe — and this September one of the boys' houses (Corfe) will become a third girls' house, while the displaced boys will move into the new residential house. "I think the new house is a big statement on the attitude of St Edward's," says Mr Christie. "We believe in boarding."

The introduction of girls has meant an equal shedding of places for boys but the school is at the moment growing towards its optimum size of *600 pupils. Every public* school needs more pupils, but St Edward's seems to have avoided the trend of looking abroad for students.

There are, of course, pupils from overseas at St Edward's but the essential character of the school is very modern and *very English. Going coeduca*tional has not only helped increase intake, but it also chimes in with the school's philosophy of a complete education.

"I've always been in favour of coeducation," says Mr Christie. "I think without it you are inhibiting the educational process. That's my own opinion and others might disagree. One benefit of independence is that schools can choose the model they believe in."



Girls have been fully integrated into school life; the decision has meant that St Edward's can offer a more rounded education

Team effort clinches £6m sports centre

In a unique deal, commerce is funding a complex that will be open to public and pupils

David Christie, the Warden of St Edward's for the past 11 years, has a gleam in his eye. "There may be other examples of this but I don't know of any," he says with a smile.

St Edward's is about to undertake a scheme unheard of in private schooling. In cooperation with the First Leisure group, work is about to begin on a £6 million sports centre in the school grounds that will be open to the public and the pupils.

Such an undertaking would *seem to create a huge head*ache but not, it seems, for Mr Christie whose smile is undimmed. No wonder: the sports complex is to be built entirely at First Leisure's expense while the school needs to provide only the land, on lease. Clearly, both sides will benefit from the arrangement.

The new multipurpose health and fitness centre is set to be the envy of many larger *establishments* and will include indoor tennis courts, squash courts, a 25-metre swimming pool, a gymnasium and an aerobics studio.

In addition to access to some of the most up-to-date facilities, a large sports hall is being built for the exclusive use of the pupils. First Leisure *has* undertaken to maintain the entire centre, swimming pool and all. The school will have *no maintenance costs.*

Such a foray into the commercial market is bound to raise eyebrows, but Mr Christie has few apprehensions.

"As a schoolmaster, not a businessman, one is always *concerned that we are not* getting the best deal, but our relations with First Leisure have been excellent. We are teachers, not leisure centre managers. We want to concentrate on what we are good at and leave the management to those skilled in that area."

The advantages of such a scheme are clear and look set to spur the interest of other schools — the centre has been gained without a penny being put on fees.

"Through this scheme we've enhanced our facilities enormously," Mr Christie says, "*but simultaneously* there's nothing that's putting a financial barrier up to people coming to the school, either through raised borrowing or increasing the fees and that's what's so exciting. Our pupils' interests always come first."

Indeed, at a time when many private school pupils are becoming secondary considerations to the financial running of a school, it is a refreshing change to see business and teaching harmonised so readily and successfully as they have been here.

Although the construction of the centre has been ceded to First Leisure, there is no question of outsourcing of the school's sports teaching. St Edward's staff will continue to run physical education and games to the high standards that have made it a feared presence on sports pitches.

The school's previous sports centre was also used by the public, who are expected to apply in some numbers for membership of the complex, set within the grounds in the affluent Summertown area of North Oxford.

Having members of the community using the new complex also helps to strengthen the school's bond with the area. "Even if we had the £6 million to build this centre, we would still want the public to be *using it," Mr Christie says.*

Under the careful eye of David Bramble, the former bursar, it is hoped that the centre will be fully operational by next summer.

Mr Bramble initiated the project and, despite his retirement, will see it through to completion as project manager. He points out that there has been "a massive improvement in both the sporting and academic facilities for pupils in recent years".

At the same time as the sports centre is being built a new boarding house is also being completed. Senior pupils' rooms will feature *en suite* facilities. "It's the way things are going," says Mr Christie. "Unless schemes are found like the one we are involved in, the costs will continue to escalate."

Between May and February the new buildings will replace the present Douglas Bader sports centre but the name will remain intact.

The preservation of the memory of one of the school's greatest old boys is seen as important — the one concession to the past in a project that is resolutely looking towards the future.

Pupils excel at rowing and rugby

SPORT

"THERE *is nothing* — absolutely nothing — half so much worth doing as *simply* messing about in boats." So said Kenneth Grahame, one of St Edward's most illustrious old boys, who surely must have picked up the habit as a pupil here.

The boating tradition continues at St Edward's to this day, only now it is a little more than just "messing about". St Edward's prides itself on its sporting success and especially on its rowing. Winner of the schools' Head of the River race in both 1997 *and 1998, St Edward's even set* a new course record in its last triumph.

Strong competitors at the National Schools Regatta and Henley, some of the rowers go on to gain Blues in the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race. Girls' rowing is also taking off, *and it is hoped that* they will emulate the success of the boys' crews. The school, *however, does offer rowing* at all levels, not just for the top teams, and with a boathouse on the nearby Thames, it takes place in surroundings of which Toad and Mole would surely have approved.

Yet rowing in no way eclipses the other sports on offer. The rugby team can boast an *under-19 England internation*al among its ranks. It won all but one of its games last season. The school is always a strong contestant in the Rosslyn Park Sevens competition. The girls' skiing team has also won many medals.

Almost every pupil takes part in a sporting *activity* of some kind (there are three or four teams for each sport in each year group) and the 90 acres of sports fields at the school allows a lot to take place. A new six-hole golf course is now on site and the soon to be constructed leisure complex will offer an enviable amount of alternative sports to take part in.

The advent of an all-weather pitch has led to a *renaissance* in hockey. Apart from that, sailing, athletics, and more are on offer.

Bargains of the week: a Bank Holiday weekend in Jersey; walking in the Basque Country; touring Africa's most splendid sites

PACK YOUR BAGS

■ *A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and farther afield, many at bargain prices*

BRITISH ISLES

EASTBOURNE is angry at a new Thomson television commercial depicting the place as the kind of sleepy resort you avoid for the fleshpots of Europe, *Tony Dawe writes.*

To show just what the town can offer, Elite Hotels has a special deal this Bank Holiday weekend: a two-night break at the five-star Grand for £99 between Friday and Monday. Similar deals are available at the group's hotels in Ashdown Forest, East Sussex and Hook in Hampshire. Details: 01323 412345.

■ *ST HELIER is the sunniest* town in the British Isles — and that's official — so it could be the best place for the first Bank Holiday week of May. Thomas Cook Holidays is offering a week's B&B at a guesthouse close to shops and the beach for £261, with a return flight from Gatwick on Sunday. Details: 01733 418300.

■ TENNIS, swimming, a gym and sauna are all on hand and the peace, tranquillity and donkeys of the New Forest on the doorstep of the Passford House Hotel, where Sunvil UK is offering Bank Holiday weekend breaks at special rates. Arrive tomorrow or Saturday and two nights' B&B costs £64.50. Details: 0181-232 9788.

■ DINGLE Peninsula can claim to be the wildest and most beautiful part of the West of Ireland and has well-located holiday cottages available at a discount from May 8. A week's self-catering with Irish Ferries Holidays costs £85, based on four sharing and with a Pembroke-Rosslare ferry crossing for car and passengers. Details: 08705 170000.

■ NORTH York Moors is Britain's least appreciated National Park, but Inntravel is offering the chance to discover it on a four-night walking trip from May 14, which costs £315 with half-board in atmospheric inns. Details: 01653 628862.

EUROPE

VILLAS and apartments in converted farmhouses on wine and olive-growing estates throughout Tuscany are available all next month from Crystal Premier Italy. Deals offering two weeks for the price of one are running until May 15. Prices start at £329, including return flights from Gatwick and car hire. Details: 0181-390 5554.

■ MONET fans who missed the London exhibition of his paintings can see some of his work at the Orangerie Museum in Paris, which houses his largest pictures and will show a special collection of 60 paintings from May 6. Two nights' B&B, Eurostar travel and entry to the exhibition will cost from £163 with Time Off. Details: 0990 846363.

■ KEFALONIA for a week from Sunday for £139 and Skiathos for a week from Monday for £99, both self-catering and with flights from Manchester, are the best and most immediate offers to the Greek islands this week from Kosmar. Details: 0181-882 6999.

■ VENICE can be explored on a fortnight's Airtours holiday available from Co-op Travelcare for £219 and starting on Sunday. The offer includes half-board on the Venetian Riviera and flights from Gatwick. Details: 0541 500388.

■ SAVINGS of £200 on spring walking breaks in the Pays Basque are available with Pyrenées Adventures, cutting the cost of a week's peaks and valleys holiday from May 8 to £295 with full board. Travel is extra and return high-speed rail tickets from London cost £165. Details: 01433 621498.

■ HAMBURG'S biggest party, celebrating the 810th birthday of the city's famous harbour, takes place from May 7 to 9 and Lufthansa has special fares for those wanting to join the celebrations. Return flights from Heathrow cost £140 and Benz Travel can book them and accommodation. Details: 0171-462 0000.

■ ATHENS and its classical sites, plus the palaces, mosques and bazaars of Istanbul — with a five-night cruise in between — are all included in ten-night trips with Sovereign, which start with flights from Heathrow on May 20 and 25. Prices now start from £900. Details: 08707 500500.


YANNIS BEHRAKI

At the Acropolis: a special deal to Athens is on offer

LONG HAUL

CRUISING in the Far East for five days to resorts in Thailand and Malaysia is combined with two nights in Chiang Mai and three in Singapore on a special package available from Premier Holidays for £929. Fly from Heathrow on May 18 and 25 with Singapore Airlines to take advantage. Details: 01223 516677.

■ *FOR those who prefer to* stay on dry land, Asean Explorer is offering two weeks at beach resorts in Hua Hin, Thailand, for the price of one. The deal runs for the next two months and costs from £684, including return scheduled flights. Details: 01481 823417.

■ EMIRATES is busy flying cricketers and their supporters to the World Cup in Britain in mid-May, so there is plenty of space in its home town of Dubai, where Tradewinds is offering six-night breaks at the four-star Oasis Beach Hotel for £499. The holidays are available with flights from Gatwick on May 19 and 26. Details: 0870-751 0004.

■ NAIROBI for £298 return tops the flight deals on offer this week and is available from Bridge The World for departures from Heathrow until the end of June. For those who can escape with small children in the next three weeks, Bon Voyage is offering Orlando for £315 return from Gatwick with two to 11-year-olds going free, subject to complicated conditions. Details: Bridge The World, 0171-911 0900, Bon Voyage, 0800-316 0194.

The Nairobi offer could be used to join Dragoman's African adventure starting from the Kenyan capital on May 3 and 17. A five-week tour takes in many of East and Southern Africa's most splendid sites, including the Ngorongoro Crater, Zanzibar and a floating safari on Lake Kariba. The price of £1,035, plus a £300 kitty, includes travel, accommodation (mostly camping) and meals. Details: 01728 861133.

● *All prices are per person and based on two sharing, unless otherwise stated.*



See *The Times* on Saturday for more flight bargains and last-minute holidays

EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER — THE TIMES

WIN AN EVENING WITH THE VOICE OF BART SIMPSON

PLUS: FREE SIMPSONS POSTERS WORTH £3.99 EACH AND DISCOUNTS OFF T-SHIRTS, CLOCKS AND MUGS



Today *The Times* offers one lucky reader the chance to meet Nancy Cartwright, left, the actress behind the voice of Bart Simpson* at an exclusive private preview of *The Art of Bart* at the Animation Art Gallery, Great Castle Street, London, W1 on Friday, May 14. The winner will also be given a signed, limited edition of Simpsons artwork, illustrated.

Every reader can get a free Simpsons poster titled *Deep Thoughts of Homer Simpson* worth £3.99 simply by attaching three differently numbered tokens to the voucher which will be published in *The Times* on Saturday and presenting it at any Virgin Megastore in the UK and Eire.

With the voucher you can also buy T-shirts in a choice of two designs for children or adults from £7.99 (usually £9.99-£11.99) and have £10 off Simpsons clocks (usually £39.99) and £1 off mugs (usually £5.99).

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to meet the voice of Bart Simpson and win the signed artwork, simply call our competition hotline, below, with the answer to this question: **Which town do the Simpsons live in?** Lines are open until midnight on Tuesday, May 4.

*See Bart Simpson in *meg@* every Saturday.

COMPETITION HOTLINE
0640 678 887
EX UK +44 870 901 4287

CALLS COST 60p PER MINUTE
The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. Normal TNL competition rules apply.



THE TIMES SIMPSONS TOKEN 1

CHANGING TIMES

RUGBY LEAGUE

Salter returns to blaze trail for Bev's Babes

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

FROM West Hartlepool to Wembley. Six weeks ago, Matt Salter was embroiled in a relegation battle in the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division when the call arrived from London Broncos. In an almost surreal transition back to rugby league the following week, the Blackheath-born player was pitched into the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final with Castleford Tigers.

Three days away from the final, Salter, 22, is still pinching himself. The Broncos had not offered him a contract for this season, but still kept his registration. West Hartlepool showed an interest, so, three years after last playing union, Salter moved to the North East, resigned to the fact that his short league career was probably over.

When West Hartlepool encountered financial difficulties and Salter was forced to take a ten per cent pay cut, the call from Dan Stains, the London coach, was neatly timed. "He told me they had a prop crisis with Darren Bradstreet and Grant Young injured, that they wanted me immediately and was I available? As West were in breach of contract, I didn't have much hesitation," he said.

He came off the bench against Castleford and has been busy since relearning all the habits that he had spent five months trying to forget.

One of six players in the Broncos team on Saturday born in England, only Salter has emerged from the club's development ranks, where a homegrown takeover is part of the long-term planning.

With ballast required in the front row to shore up London's so-called "pygmy pack", Salter's elevation has been at the unfortunate expense of Dominic Peters, the Acton-born forward and an automatic choice this season. Like Salter, who joined the Broncos from Blackheath, Peters was playing union for London Irish. His memory of rugby league cup finals was of "a bloke called Martin Offiah always scoring and Wigan always winning".

Salter, too, liked what he saw of league from television. At first, it was a way of maintaining fitness over the summer, but, being a natural handler and runner, he postponed a scholarship at Cardiff Institute when selected for the 1996 Great Britain Academy tour of New Zealand.

Win or lose against Leeds Rhinos, it will be a poignant moment for Bev Risman, whose suggestion of an under-19 side for London was initially laughed out of the Rugby Football League. In 1996, with Dave Rotheram at the Broncos, he took seven scholarship youngsters from Brisbane and other young hopefuls, many of whom had responded to newspaper advertisements, and beat traditional sides, where boys ate and slept the game.

"We once beat the Wigan Academy side 30-10," Salter said. "There was no way a bunch of players from union were going to do that, but with the Australian lads, we gained in confidence and knowledge."

Peters, 20, questioned his decision after being knocked unconscious in his first match. "It seemed far too tough for a young London kid, but as I relished physical confrontation, it's proved the best form of channelling aggression. It's nothing to do with northern stereotyping and potbellied props. You have to be at your peak because it's so fast," he said.

More of "Bev's Babes" — Wayne Sykes, Ed Jennings, James Brooks and Steffan Hughes — have graduated to the first-team squad. "Even with the Academy side today, you get people calling them a bunch of Aussies. Actually, they're all from London, except three from Oxford, Barrow and Gateshead," Risman said.

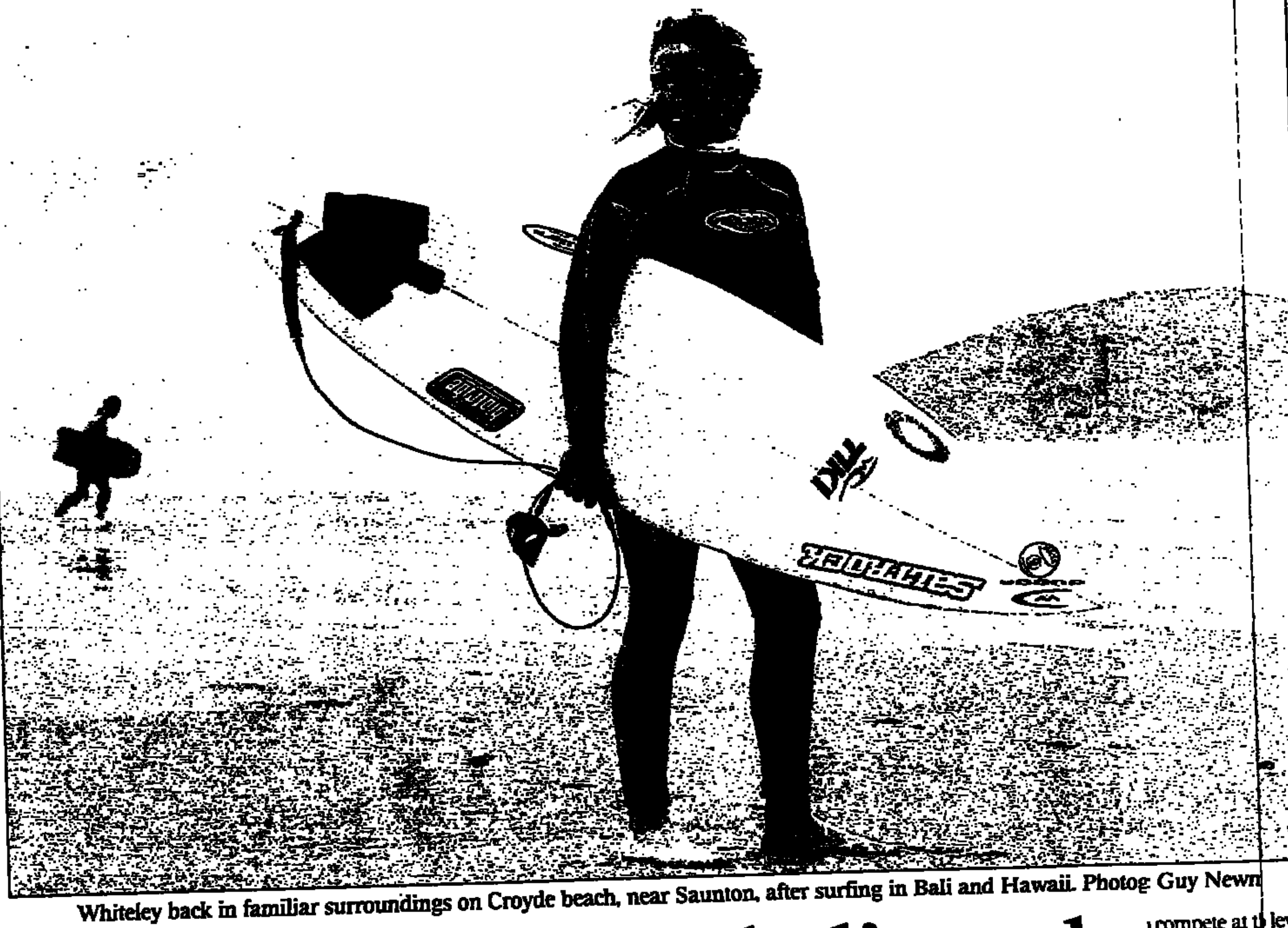
Nevertheless, Australian accents proliferate still at the Stoop Memorial Ground, including that of Stains, who has a vision of an all-London team. More than 20,000 children have been introduced to the game through the club's schools programme. Most of the 23 trainees come from within the M25 boundary and one, Bobby Wallis, from Feltham Community College, down the road from the Stoop, is the first boy from the South to be chosen for the Great Britain Under-16 squad, which tours Australia this summer.

Under Dave Evans, the Broncos development manager, teams now operate from under-13 level. "Wembley has obviously helped with the awareness factor," he said. "It's a question of harnessing the talent out there.

"Bobby Wallis is a prime example of a kid who'd probably never heard of rugby league before, but turns out to have a natural aptitude for it. It's going to take ten years, but I reckon you'll then see a totally home-bred London team."



Only six weeks ago, Salter was involved in a union dogfight


Whiteley back in familiar surroundings on Croyde beach, near Saunton, after surfing in Bali and Hawaii. Photog Guy Newn

Whiteley dedicated to chasing breakers

SARAH POTTER



Landlubbers will be hoping for settled weather over the May Bank Holiday but the best of the nation's surfers will be praying for winds strong enough to make waves. Fistral beach, Newquay, is the venue for the English national championships and, come rain or shine, Sarah Whiteley, the women's title-holder, will be wearing her thickest wet suit.

For her, the seas will feel like a freezing plunge pool after the hot tub, for Whiteley has spent the past six months rollercoastering waves in exotic locations such as Bali, Australia and Hawaii. "I only got back this week so the cold came as a bit of a shock," she said. "The difference in water temperature takes your breath away, but I'll be ready by the weekend."

Just as well, for she will have to repulse a strong tide of challengers. According to Karen Walton, secretary of the British Surfing Association, there are approximately 100,000 surfers in Britain, of which five per cent are women. "We are seeing a big increase in the numbers of women joining and taking part in competitions," Walton said. "Female participation has been doubling every year over the past five years."

Which also means a slow dilution of surfing's macho image. "It is changing and now there's even a surfing magazine for women," Whiteley said. "I've always thought it's a bit sad if you surf just to look cool. For me, the joy is that it's so natural. It sounds corny, but you can get out there, forget everything and express yourself."

Water sport was a natural choice for Whiteley, 21, for she was brought up in Saunton, on the North Devon coast, in a spectacular house called "Breakers", where the front lawn rolls down to meet the sea. "Although I was a tomboy and loved all sports at school, it was easy to fall for surfing," she said. "As soon as I got a surfboard that was it."

Many people learn by joining a club: Whiteley picked it up from the locals who were riding the waves almost on her doorstep. "I watched other people closely and read magazines," she said. "The waves break very slowly at Saunton, so it's an ideal place to learn. It's also a very friendly atmosphere, so the old boys and the local crew gave me lots of tips." At 16, she was encouraged by the owner of the local surf shop to enter her first competition.

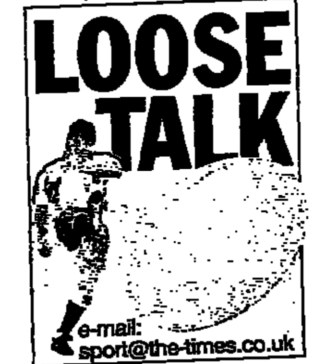
"He said he'd pay my entry fee and as it was just around the corner in Woolacombe I figured I had nothing to lose," she said. "When I won I wanted more." Now, when she is home for the summer months, her favourite beach is a pebble's throw up the coast at Croyde, where hollow, powerful waves make for good competition training.

According to Whiteley, scoring points in front of judges involves a deal of luck. "You're judged on three waves in a 20-minute heat," she said. "Basically, it's about making as many moves — zigzagging, cutbacks, figures of eight — as you can at the critical point of the wave. Off the top of the wave you try and get as vertical as you can but it can be frustrating because you can paddle out there and always be in the wrong place when the wave arrives. In that sense, it's not a level playing field."

Nor does it necessarily follow that the most talented [illegible] compete at th[illegible] level. [illegible]ss Whiteley [illegible] more [illegible]sors, she [illegible] remain [illegible]le to test her[illegible]gainst [illegible]ecognised el[illegible] If you [illegible]nough points [illegible]ish in [illegible]p ten of the W[illegible]Quali[illegible] Series," she [illegible] "you [illegible]n to the Wor[illegible]ampi[illegible]ip Tour. Th[illegible]re 15 [illegible]en profession[illegible]aking [illegible]ent living bu[illegible] have [illegible] able to get [illegible]elf all [illegible]d the world [illegible] [illegible]mmer work i[illegible]unton [illegible] does not re[illegible]rovide [illegible]ient funds. [illegible] has [illegible]o bail me ou[illegible]year," [illegible]aid, "but I [illegible] really [illegible] to use my pa[illegible] mon[illegible]ven though t[illegible] right [illegible]d me. Most [illegible] peak [illegible] they're 25 t[illegible]o I've [illegible] bit of time t[illegible]here." [illegible]iteley, [illegible] w[illegible] her [illegible]hed hair a[illegible]eckled [illegible] radiates hea[illegible]d *joie* [illegible]*ivre*. To m[illegible] the [illegible]gth she nee[illegible] deal [illegible] waves that [illegible]un as [illegible] as 14ft, she [illegible] daily [illegible]s the dunes, [illegible]ps the [illegible]hbag in h[illegible]erents' [illegible]ge and wr[illegible] with [illegible]y, the famil[illegible]rador. [illegible] on planning [illegible]ave to [illegible] "I don't kn[illegible]at I'll [illegible]oing in ten y[illegible]time." [illegible]aid. "I have[illegible]ought [illegible]t it much [illegible]e I'm [illegible] a person[illegible] the [illegible]ent."

Reformers resigned to losing struggle

LOOSE TALK



The special general meeting forced upon the Rugby Football Union (RFU) is set to go ahead on June 6, at Twickenham, even though the union has been advised by its lawyers that whatever is decided will not be binding under the constitution. The Reform Group engineered the vote of no confidence in the RFU hierarchy and wants the management board overthrown. They will not back down, even though they only just managed to scrape together 100 clubs to support the motion.

Given the legal position, one wonders why the agitators are so determined to carry on and why the RFU — in the light of its legal advice — doesn't just scrap the whole thing, saving itself a possible £20,000? People mutter about democracy, but some believe that this is taking things too far.

Pole star

The Army not only won the Willis Corroon Trophy at Twickenham on Saturday, but one of their supporters also took away another prized souvenir. He defied gravity and possible serious injury by removing the White Ensign from the flagpole atop the North Stand, hundreds of feet above ground. The brave soul found his way on to a ladder at the back of the stand, shinned up and removed the colours. After the game, during which eight people streaked, four pubs in Twickenham were reported to have closed early because they could not cope with the demand and possible trouble between rival supporters.


Saint Andre: popular

Neath contempt

The Welsh may have presented a united front during their win over England at Wembley, but according to Terry Holmes, club rugby in the Principality is riven with "petty jealousies". Holmes, whose eight-year tenure as coach at Cardiff ends shortly, said that one reason for his departure was the club's decision to throw in its lot with the Welsh Rugby Union. "I would have liked to see us as part of the Allied Dunbar [Premiership] — all Cardiff are going to get in Wales is the same old hatred," Holmes said. "Neath have been sounding off even though we have the best record of any Welsh club in the European Cup. What have Neath ever done in Europe, other than catch a plane?"

Big cheese

You would scarcely credit Philippe Saint Andre's popularity around Gloucester. Is it merely coincidence that local supermarkets now stock the award-winning St Andre cheese, described as "full-fat soft cheese", which may not necessarily be the most apposite description of the Frenchman who is director of rugby at Kingsholm.

Cornish pasting

Spare a thought for Launceston. The Cornish side finished their 22-match league season in South West I level on points with Penzance & Newlyn with a huge points differential of plus 793 — yet still could not squeeze into the Jewson National League. In the final round of games, Launceston beat Gloucester Old Boys 84-17, but Penzance trumped them by beating Torquay Athletic 131-5, giving them a better points advantage and so promotion.

Third way

The world's third significant annual international competition starts on Saturday with the opening round of matches in the inaugural Epson Cup. It involves Canada, Japan, the United States, Fiji, Western Samoa and Tonga and runs over the next ten weeks. It is backed by the International Rugby Board to the tune of £1.2 million over three years, as well as the support of the Japanese company.

MARK SOUSTER


Holmes: "petty jealousies"

Sale forced to make further cuts

BY MARK SOUSTER

THE upheaval at Manchester Sale continued yesterday with David Rees and Phil Greening, the England internationals, having to contemplate the prospect of salary cuts and other players being put on the transfer list. Among them was Dion O'Cuinneagain, the Ireland flanker, who only recently signed a new two-year contract at Heywood Road.

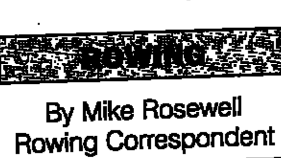
O'Cuinneagain was surprised to find himself named among those available for transfer and is seeking clarification from the club about his future. Kevin Ellis and John Devereux are already available and have now been joined by four members of the development squad.

One player likely to move is Chris Yates, the centre, who is expected to join Gloucester. Adrian Hadley, the director of rugby, said: "We have had an offer from Gloucester for Chris Yates but nothing has been finalised. I have been given the task of producing a competitive squad for next season within a budget of £1.5 million. We have no option other than to lose some players. Sale have been badly managed regarding contracts and salaries and unfortunately I have to pick up the pieces."

Wasps, who appointed John Mitchell, the former Sale coach, as forwards' coach on a temporary basis until the end of the season, are hoping to confirm his full-time appointment shortly.

The International Rugby Board is considering contingency plans if Namibia cannot compete in the World Cup. The Namibian Government has suspended the Namibian Rugby Union for failing to fulfil an agreement to implement a quota of black players in the national side. If they are forced to withdraw, they are expected to be replaced by one of the losers from this weekend's repechage matches, involving Tonga, Uruguay, Morocco and South Korea.

Searle enjoys benefit of honing technique



By Mike Rosewell
Rowing Correspondent

GREG SEARLE defends his Wingfield Sculls title from Putney to Mortlake today, his first race since finishing fifth in the world championships last September. "I have had about a month's good training," Searle, who has just returned from injury, said.

While training less severely, Searle has concentrated on technique, a decision that he feels has paid dividends. He said: "I have improved my flexibility and boat feel. Ultimately I should go faster; I haven't got a clue how fast I am, but it feels good."

He will find out today in a race with three younger opponents trying to take the Wingfield title, one of whom, Tom Gale, led last year before stopping at Chiswick Steps with tight forearms.

Giles Monnickendam, a lightweight at 73kg, took advantage of Searle's absence to take the Scullers Head title, while the other contender is Mark Hunter, from London, who has represented Great Britain at junior and under-23 level and who has won the apprentices' pennant at the Scullers Head a record five times. He will be eligible to compete for the coveted Doggett's Coat and Badge in 2001.

Johnson ‸ys p‸ce for casual‸ppr‸ch

SQUA[illegible]

From Colin [illegible]uillan in Linz, [illegible]ia

PAUL JOHNSON, the national champion, was beaten 2-9, 9-1, 3-9, 9-6, 9-6 by Simon Frenz, of Germany, as England dropped a point in their defence of the European team championship yesterday. "I was casual," Johnson said. "When the match started to slip, I couldn't stop Simon playing his shots."

A quick study of Lee Beachill and Marcus Berrett, playing their first senior European matches, would have shown Johnson the way. Beachill exuded more perspiration warming up for his third-string rubber than he did beating Florian Possl 10-8, 9-2, 9-0, and Berrett took the fourth-string point from Stefan Oppolzer 9-5, 9-5, 9-1.

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[illegible]he men's fin[illegible]ks likely [illegible] include S[illegible]d, who [illegible]an yesterda[illegible] a 4-0 [illegible] over Swit[illegible]d. The [illegible]tland wome[illegible]am also [illegible], 3-0 agains[illegible]ium.

MOTOR LLYING

)ealline feafor Subru's surival

By Jer Hart

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Burns: "all is not lost"

RACING: FORMER CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP WINNER MAKES ALL TO WIN HEINEKEN GOLD CUP

Imperial Call returns refreshed

From Alan Lee
Racing Correspondent
at Punchestown

IN THE punishing world of steeplechasing, old champions hardly ever come back, especially the physically challenged. Any who defy the odds to repeat the ascent are guaranteed a place in public affections and Imperial Call received the acclaim due to a returning hero after winning the Heineken Gold Cup at Punchestown yesterday.

During the three years since Imperial Call triumphed in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, Ireland has seen a stream of potential chasing champions, keenly anticipated but unfulfilled. Two such pretenders, Florida Pearl and Dorans Pride, were among the opponents left scattered across the fields of Kildare yesterday by a performance of heartwarming dynamism.

Imperial Call was the one horse in the race who had attained the peaks to which the others aspired, and he had even finished third to Teeton Mill in his most recent outing, the King George VI Chase at Christmas. Yet such have been his ailments and frustrations that he was allowed to go off at an unregarded 8-1. He neither knew nor cared and returned to a tumult that suggested the majority of a 25,000 crowd had enjoyed the bookmakers' generosity.

British interest in the £120,000 event lasted only as far as the first fence, where Escartefigue over-jumped and fell. Ruby Walsh, Ireland's champion elect, had already poached a significant lead on Imperial Call and he was never to surrender it. Dorans Pride's challenge ended with a blunder at the fourth last and Florida Pearl, the odds-on favourite, had no excuses for a 14-length beating.

A woman called Hurley had made all the morning headlines; now it was the turn of her male namesake. Ray Hurley is just 23 and in only his second year of training near Cork. He inherited a horse widely believed to be in terminal decline and deserves great credit for his revival. "There's more life in this horse, he's proved that today," Hurley said. "He had a lung infection at Cheltenham, so we missed the Gold Cup. It was disappointing to have taken him there for nothing but we wouldn't be here today if he had run."

Michael Hourigan, trainer of Dorans Pride, was philosophical. "He was beaten before his mistake and probably ran a bit flat. There was no hard-luck story, the winner deserved it." The sentiments were shared by Willie Mullins, who also reflected without regret that Florida Pearl may now cease to be the subject of a nation's dreams. "At least the star status has gone," he said.

Punchestown was a joy in the spring sunshine but the bleak side of this game has no sense of timing and a chill shadow was cast on the day by the death of the leading novice hurdler, Joe Mac. Another of J.P. McManus's glittering team, Joe Mac had won easily at Aintree and started 7-4 favourite for the Stanley Cooker Champion Novice Hurdle, but he trailed in sixth and collapsed fatally soon after the line.

Of two British-trained winners on the day, the more emphatic belonged to Philip Hobbs and Bouchasson, who trounced an apparently competitive field for the Sean Barrett Bloodstock Handicap Chase by 15 lengths. Castle Mane, winner of the Foxhunters at Cheltenham, later completed the double in the Kevin McManus Champion Hunters Chase.

The British challenge gathers pace today, with runners in six of the seven races. Anzum, winner of the Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham, takes on runner-up Le Coudray again while Katarino, trained by Nicky Henderson, defends his unbeaten four-year-old record against those who finished second and third to him at Cheltenham, Balla Sola and Afarad.



CAROLINE NORRIS

Imperial Call caps an exhilarating display of front-running with a fine jump at the last in the Heineken Gold Cup at Punchestown yesterday

RESULTS

2.40 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **NATIVE UPMANSHIP** (… P Treacy, 8-1); 2, **Wither Or Which** (R Wa… 12-1); 3, **Colonel Yeager** (R Dunwoody, 5-2…). ALSO RAN. 7-4 fav Joe Mac (6th), 11-2 Win… Garden (5th), 7 Site Leader (pu), 14-1 Nae… Dara, Prominent Profile (4th), Samakaan, 20 Ro… suns Mate, 50 Copper Supreme. 11 ran 5l, 2… 3½l, 11l, 14l. A L T Moore at Naas. Tote £10… £2.60, £3.30, £1.40. DF: £121.80. CSF: £104.52. Trio: £54.80.

3.15 (3m 1f ch) 1, **IMPERIAL CALL** (R Walsh, 8-1); 2, **Florida Pearl** (4-7 fav). 3, **Dorans Pride** (100-30). ALSO RAN. 6 Escartefigue (f), 33 Opera Hat (4th). 5 ran. 14l, dist, dist. R Hurley at Bandon. Tote: £5.50; £1.70, £1.50. DF: £4.90. CSF: £13.40

BIG RACES AT PUNCHESTOWN TODAY

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

3.15 IAWS CHAMPION FOUR-YEAR-OLD HURDLE
(Grade I: 4-Y-O: £43,400: 2m) (9 runners)

1	65	ABUHAIL 11F (Raglan Road Two Syndicate) D McArdle 11-0	G Cotter	–
2	3132	AFARAD 21 (D,S) (J McManus) C Roche 11-0	C F Swan	153
3	121	BALLA SOLA 24 (D,S) (Top Cat Syndicate) W P Mullins 11-0	R Walsh	136
4	222213	GOLDEN RULE 4F (D,S) (Crock of Gold Syndicate) Miss F Crowley 11-0	R Dunwoody	147
5	-31111	KATARINO 42 (D,G,S) (R Waley-Cohen) N Henderson (Uk) 11-0	M A Fitzgerald	149
6	11110	KNIFE EDGE 42 (CD,S) (Hon S Lawson) M J O'Brien 11-0	T P Rudd	107
7	333621	PERSIAN ISLE 28 (D,S) (SDS Racing Club) S Mahon 11-0	P Morris	–
8	11B20	HAVE MERCI 23 (D,G,S) (R Wood) Mrs J Harrington 10-9	C O'Dwyer	–
9	122150	MISS EMER 23 (D,S) (G Mulholland) N Meade 10-9	N Williamson	–

BETTING: 13-8 Katarino, 5-2 Balla Sola, 6-1 Knife Edge, 7-1 Afarad, 10-1 Miss Emer, 12-1 others.

1998: ZAFARABAD 11-0 R Johnson (2-1 fav) D Nicholson (GB) 15 ran

3.50 TRIPLEPRINT NOVICE CHASE
(Grade I: £29,450: 2m) (7 runners)

1	F11642	PROMALEE 23 (D,G,S) (Mrs A Daly) Miss F M Crowley 7-11-9	R Dunwoody	–
2	145345	AMBERLEIGH HOUSE 42 (D,S) (Mrs A Dike) M Hourigan 7-11-5	A P McCoy	121
3	233164	COCKNEY LAD 23 (CD,F,G,S) (D Daly) N Meade 10-11-5	B J Geraghty	127
4	-1F25P	PUGET BLUE 23 (D,S) (Mrs A Daly) M Morris 6-11-5	J R Barry	–
5	-51516	SOCIETY BRIEF 21 (CD,S) (Society Syndicate) A L Moore 7-11-5	C O'Dwyer	86
6	620-1P	SYDNEY TWOTHOUSAND 122 (S) (W Michael) N Meade 9-11-5	N Williamson	–
7	1-1101	WYNYARD KNIGHT 24 (D,G,S) (Sir John Hall) Mrs M Reveley (GB) 7-11-5	P Niven	[illegible]

BETTING: 13-8 Promalee, 7-2 Wynyard Knight, 4-1 Cockney Lad, 7-1 Sydney Twothousand, 8-1 Puget Blue, 10-1 Amberleigh House, Society Brief.

1998: DIRECT ROUTE 7-11-9 P Carberry (11-10 fav) J H Johnson (GB) 5 ran

4.25 BALLYMORE PROPERTIES CHAMPION STAYERS HURDLE
(Grade I: £31,000: 3m) (6 runners)

1	2/0521	ANZUM 42 (D,G,S) (Old Foresters Pnrs) D Nicholson (GB) 8-12-0	R Johnson	[illegible]
2	11UU44	MISTER MOROSE 19 (G,S) (Mrs J Mould) N T-Davies (GB) 9-11-11	C Llewellyn	[illegible]
3	5P3105	PHARANEAR 21 (D,F,G,S) (Stainless Ltd) P Hobbs (GB) 9-11-11	R Dunwoody	[illegible]
4	111112	LE COUDRAY 42 (BF,G,S) (J P McManus) A P O'Brien 5-11-12	C F Swan	[illegible]
5	13-611	KHAYRAWANI 20 (F,G,S) (J P McManus) C Roche 7-11-11	F M Berry	[illegible]
6	301-15	MARELLO 152 (D,G,S) (Mr & Mrs W Williams) Mrs M Reveley (GB) 8-11-9	P Niven	[illegible]

BETTING: 11-10 Le Coudray, 4-1 Anzum, 11-2 Marello, 7-1 Pharanear, 8-1 Mister Morose, Khayrawani.

1998: DERRYMOYLE 9-12-0 A P McCoy (10-1) M Cunningham 8 ran



By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

It can be dangerous to double a One No-Trump opening without a good opening lead, particularly facing a passed partner. But, in the cut and thrust of the modern tournament world, it may be unnecessary to take such a risk – after all, partner is still there.

Dealer East   North-South game   Pairs

North: ♠ J 7 3 ♡ A 8 2 ◇ 9 6 2 ♣ 9 8 6 2

West: ♠ A Q 6 ♡ K J 7 3 ◇ K J 10 ♣ J 10 4

East: ♠ 9 8 4 2 ♡ 10 6 5 4 ◇ A Q 7 4 ♣ Q

South: ♠ K 10 5 ♡ Q 9 ◇ 8 5 3 ♣ A K 7 5 3

S	W	N	E
–	–	–	Pass
1 NT	Pass	Pass	Double (1)
All Pass			

Contract: One No-Trump doubled, by South. Lead: jack of clubs.

(1) East-West were using a convention whereby the double of a One No-Trump opening by a passed hand showed either both majors or both minors. Even so, it was an aggressive double by East who had clearly not turned up to pass all the time.

West, unsure which suits his partner held, chose a passive jack of clubs lead. Declarer cleared clubs but failed to unblock dummy's 9-8. West did not find the best defence now when he switched to a heart which declarer ran to his queen. He then crossed to the club in dummy and took the spade finesse. West won and continued with the king of hearts, creating a heart entry in the East hand. Declarer won the ace of hearts in dummy but, with the clubs blocked, could do no better than play another spade, allowing the defence to cash two spades, two hearts, one club and three diamonds for two off and 500 points.

It is easy to be critical of East's bidding, but at favourable vulnerability it had lots of ways to gain. If partner had been weaker it might have allowed East-West to find a partscore in either major or diamonds. As it was, it allowed East-West to score a top despite mediocre defence.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Chess festival

The final event at the Hampstead Festival in mid-April was the second master group, won jointly by Brian Kelly and Simon Williams with 6½/9. Today, as part of my ongoing coverage of this important addition to the English chess calendar, I give a game by each of the winners.

Final scores: Kelly and Williams 6½; Houska 6; Bjarnason 5½; Knott, Mork and Richardson 5; Compton 3; Barlow 2; Phillippe ½.

White: Bertie Barlow
Black: Simon Williams
Hampstead 1999

French Defence

1	e4	e6
2	d4	d5
3	Nd2	Nf6
4	e5	Nfd7
5	Bd3	c5
6	c3	Nc6
7	Ngf3	Be7
8	0-0	g5
9	h3	h5
10	g4	Qb6
11	Qb3	Qc7
12	Qd1	b6
13	a3	Bb7
14	b4	cxd4
15	cxd4	hxg4
16	hxg4	Ndxe5
17	dxe5	Nxe5
18	Bb5+	Kf8
19	Bb2	d4
20	Re1	Nxf3+
21	Nxf3	Qf4
22	Qxd4	Rh1+
23	Kxh1	Qxf3+
24	Kh2	Qg2

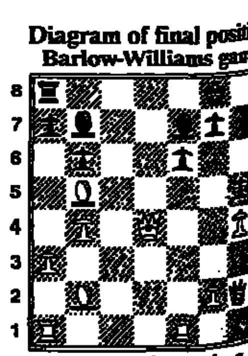
Checkmate

White: Brian Kelly
Black: Alistair Compton
Hampstead 1999

English Opening

1	c4	e5
2	g3	Nf6
3	Bg2	Nc6
4	Nc3	d6
5	Nf3	g6
6	0-0	Bg7
7	d4	0-0
8	h3	Re8
9	d5	Nb8
10	e4	Nbd7
11	Ne1	a5
12	Nd3	b6
13	Rb1	Nc5
14	Nxc5	bxc5
15	Bg5	h6
16	Bd2	Bd7
17	b3	Rf8
18	a3	Kh7
19	Kh2	Ng8
20	Qe1	f5
21	exf5	gxf5
22	f4	Re8
23	fxe5	Bxe5
24	Qf2	Nf6
25	Ne2	Rg8
26	Bf4	Qe7
27	Rbe1	Rae8
28	Bxe5	dxe5
29	Nf4	Qg7
30	Ne6	Bxe6
31	dxe6	Rxe6
32	Qxf5+	Qg6
33	Rxe5	Qxf5
34	Rfxf5	Rxe5
35	Rxe5	Rb8
36	Rxc5	Rxb3
37	Rxa5	Rc3
38	Rc5	Ne8
39	a4	Kg6
40	a5	Black resigns

Diagram of final position Barlow-Williams game



☐ Raymond Keene writes chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ORCHIL
a. The double tulip
b. A red dye
c. A serrated dagger

PLICHTANKER
a. The main anchor
b. A Dutch attorney
c. A two-litre goblet

POPVISIT
a. A short visit
b. A Russian judicial district
c. A sugared almond

NOUTHETICAL
a. Imaginary
b. Warning
c. Opposing

Answers on page 50

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Nikolenko — Ivanov, Moscow 1999.

The white bishop is lined up usefully against the black queen on c7. What is the best way to exploit this?



Solution on page 50

RACING: GODOLPHIN FIRMS 1,000 GUINEAS PLANS BUT DOUBTS SURROUND CALANDO AND MOTHER OF PEARL

Dettori pencils in ride on Pescara

By Chris McGrath

STILL the Sagitta 1,000 Guineas refuses to emerge from its murky gestation. Though Sunday's classic has already been shorn of several leading contenders, as late as yesterday ante-post punters found the door squeezing uncomfortably against the shoe. It appeared to slam on supporters of Calando, while those who have made Mother Of Pearl as short as 10-1 will do well to get a run for their money.

Concrete plans remain a luxury, but at least the Godolphin team has acquired a measure of definition. Pescara, whose success in the fillies' trial at Nad al Sheba was a tribute to her progress in Dubai, is likely to be rewarded by the assistance of Frankie Dettori. Such, at any rate, was the natural interpretation of support for her, from 20-1 to 14-1 with Coral.

Though Calando dropped out of the equation after the arrivals from the desert stretched their legs on Newmarket Heath yesterday morning, Richard Hills is expected to ride Fairy Queen. Godolphin's personnel also seems sorted for the Sagitta 2,000 Guineas on Saturday: with Dettori on Island Sands, Easaar will be ridden by Michael Roberts.

Even Godolphin is not immune to the misfortune infecting so many three-year-old fillies, having been forced to scratch Etizaaz from the 1,000 Guineas earlier in the week. While doctor's orders are not a factor with Mother Of Pearl, Peter Chapple-Hyam still rates her only "50-50" to come under those of the starter. "She is more of a staying filly and will come into her own over a mile and a half," the trainer said. "I'm more tempted to wait for the French or Irish Guineas or possibly go for the Musidora at York."

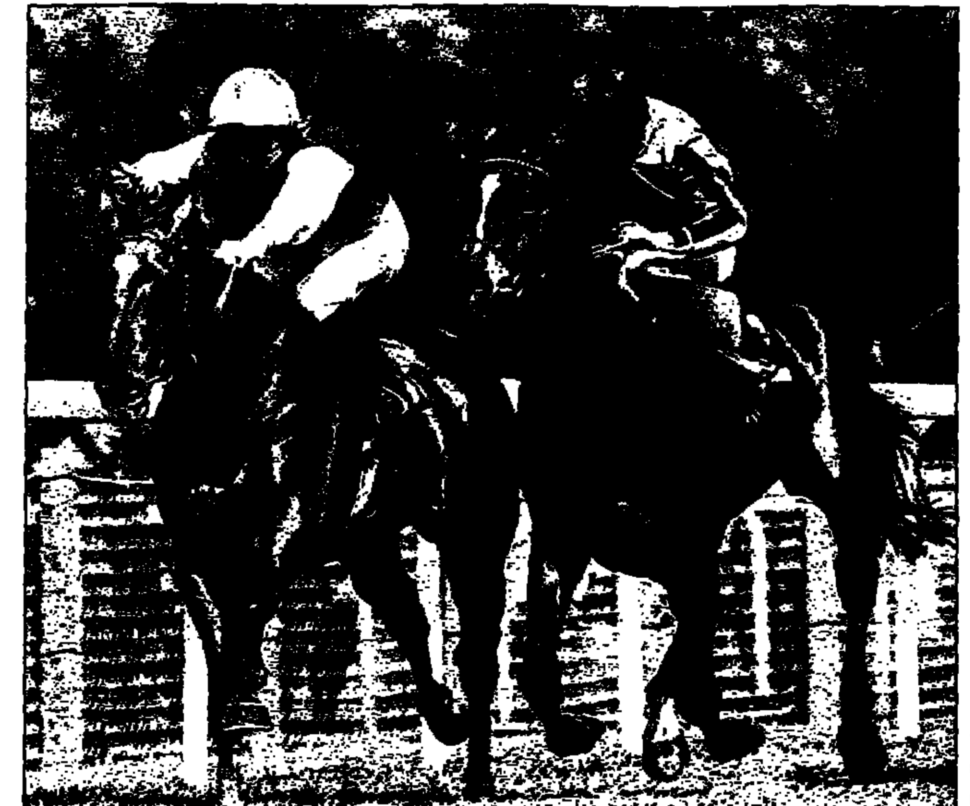
Chapple-Hyam remains more positive about Commander Collins, though there appears less conviction to the colt's tenure near the head of the 2,000 Guineas betting. Advising punters not to forget his other runner, Brancaster, the trainer might well find his upbeat approach open to misinterpretation.

"There's nothing to choose between them at home," he said. "They go to Newmarket with equal chances." These, no doubt, are the very last words backers of Commander Collins wished to hear.

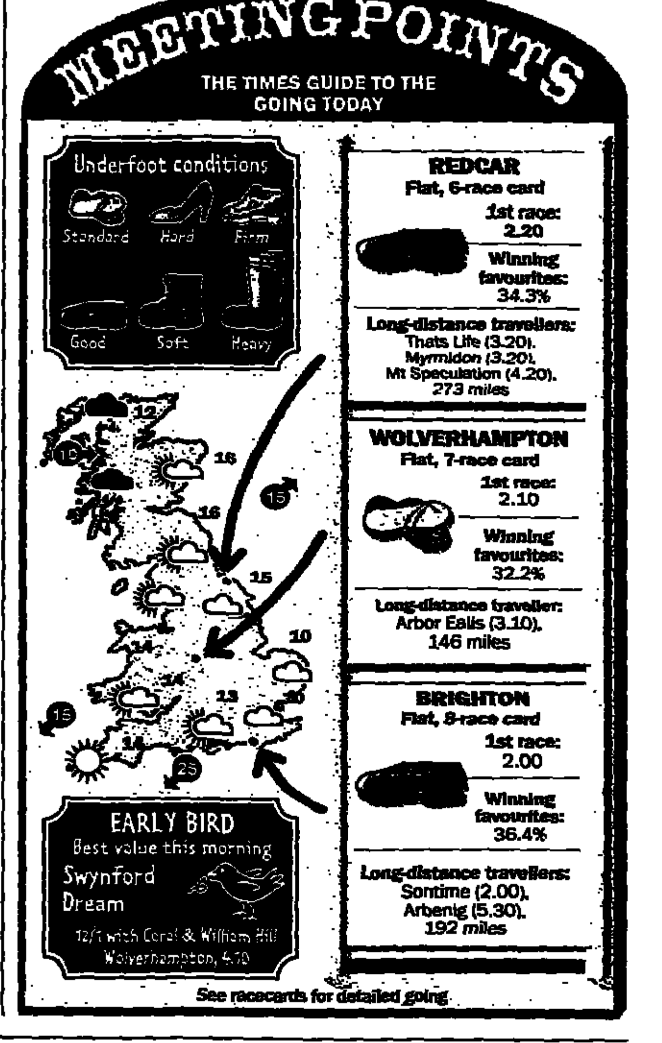
Manton has still to produce a winner this season whereas Henry Cecil, also facing a big weekend, could be emboldened by the listed-race success of Insinuate at Ascot yesterday. Enrique contests 2,000 Guineas favouritism despite faltering in front in the Greenham Stakes, while Wince staked a sufficient 1,000 Guineas claim in the Fred Darling Stakes for Hills to go 10-1 from 14-1 yesterday.

"They both went nicely this morning," Cecil said. "I'm delighted with them, and they both have a great chance of being in the first three. Wince is improving, while Enrique thought he'd done enough after being in front too soon. A lot of mine are needing a race, and they should come on."

Life is never dull for those who follow the fortunes of Celeric, the long-distance runner who needs to be ridden for a turn of foot. But Richard Quinn was equal to the heart-stopping challenge of restraining him until well inside the last furlong of the Insulpak Sagaro Stakes. Celeric is now 8-1 with Coral to retrieve the Gold Cup he won in 1997.



Celeric, right, lands the Sagaro Stakes at Ascot yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge



YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ascot

Going: good - good to soft in places

2.00 (5f) 1, **OPTIMAITE** (T Sprake, 15-8 jt-fav); 2, **Bee Eight** (M J Kinane, 13-2); 3, **First Blood** (T Quinn, 15-8 jt-fav). ALSO RAN: 4-1 Great White (5th), 16 Alfie Lee (4th). 5 ran. 4l, ½l, 3l, 4l. B Millman at Cullompton. Tote: £3.00; £1.60, £2.60. DF: £8.10. CSF: £12.68.

2.30 (1m) 1, **INSINUATE** (K Fallon, evens fav); 2, **Sweet Emotion** (G Carter, 9-1); 3, **Cassandra Go** (M Roberts, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 6-1 Eden (4th), 9 Jig (5th), 25 Pearl Barley, 50 Hi Nicky (6th). 7 ran. Hd, 1¼l, 2l, ¾l, ¾l. H Cecil at Newmarket. Tote: £2.10; £1.40, £2.40. DF: £8.30. CSF: £10.61.

3.05 (2m 45yd) 1, **CELERIC** (T Quinn, 6-1); 2, **Shaya** (M Fenton, 20-1); 3, **Canon Can** (K Fallon, 13-2). ALSO RAN: 4-1 fav Spirit of Love (4th), 9-2 The Glow-Worm (5th), 13-2 Mawared, 7 Mandpour, Samraan (6th), 14 San Sebastian. 9 ran. 1½l, 1¼l, 1¼l, 1¾l, hd. J Dunlop at Arundel. Tote: £6.80; £2.40, £5.10, £2.80. DF: £80.30. CSF: £102.23.

3.40 (7f) 1, **GREAT NEWS** (A Nicholls, 10-1); 2, **Gift of Gold** (A Mackay, 33-1); 3, **Therhea** (T Quinn, 10-1); 4, **Family Man** (R Cochrane, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 7-1 jt-fav Night of Glass (5th), 7 jt-fav Plan-B, 8 Grangeville, 10 Salty Jack, 10 Showboat, 12 Al Muallim, 16 Mister Rambo, 16 Wild Sky, 20 Vasari, 25 Consort, 25 The Downtown Fox (6th), 33 Artaxerxes, 33 No Extras, 40 Tigrello. 18 ran. NR: Chewit, Just Nick. ½l, ½l, hd, 1l, ½l. I Balding at Kingsclere. Tote: £11.20; £2.20, £9.10, £2.70, £2.20. DF: £289.50. CSF: £292.69. Tricast: £3,175.00.

4.10 (6f) 1, **SAMPOWER STAR** (Dane O'Neill, 14-1); 2, **Lionhearted** (L Dettori, 5-1); 3, **Mitcham** (T Quinn, 5-2 fav). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Flanders, 15-2 Two Clubs, 8 Mizhar, 9 Mexican Rock, 10 Monkston Point (5th), 20 Ace of Parkes (6th), Emma Peel (4th). 10 ran. 3l, 4l, 1¼l, ½l, 1¼l. R Hannon at East Everleigh. Tote: £24.80; £4.00, £1.50, £1.30. DF: £39.00. CSF: £76.59.

4.40 (1m) 1, **DUCK ROW** (S Sanders, 9-2); 2, **Right Wing** (T Quinn, 5-2 fav); 3, **Sugarfoot** (M J Kinane, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Trans Island (5th), 4 Risque Lady (4th). 5 ran. 1¼l, nk, 9l, sh hd. J Toller at Newmarket. Tote: £5.80; £2.50, £1.80. DF: £8.70. CSF: £13.74.

5.15 (1m) 1, **SCENE** (S Sanders, 20-1); 2, **Harmony Hall** (G Carter, 40-1); 3, **Autumn Cover** (T Quinn, 16-1); 4, **Artful Dane** (F Norton, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 7-1 fav Catdoro, 10 Indium, Infernal Affair, Zurs, 14 Broughtons Turmoil, Jibereen, Yeast (5th), 16 Marske Machine, Super Monarch (6th), 20 Indian Blaze, Lycian, Sailan, Storm Cry, 25 King of Tunes, Roger Ross, Topton, 33 Alfahaal, Elba Magic, Kennet, Mr Majica, Salty Ana, 50 Barren Lands, Ritual, Tarsid, 66 Stopwatch. 29 ran. NR: Pas de Memoires. Hd, nk, ½l, hd, 1l. J Glover at Worksop. Tote: £28.50; £5.60, £10.40, £5.60, £7.20. DF: £307.80. CSF: £604.75. Tricast: £11,313.22.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £54,617.40 carried forward to Redcar today).

Placepot: £171.50 **Quadpot: £32.80**

Pontefract

Going: good to soft

2.45 (5f) 1, **Pipadash** (K Darley, 15-8 fav); 2, Sotfizz (12-1); 3, Lincoln Dancer (2-1). 8 ran. Hd, nk. T Easterby. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £2.90, £1.10. DF: £16.60. CSF: £21.59.

3.15 (1m 4f 8yd) 1, **Ameera** (S Drowne, 5-1); 2, Diamond Lad (12-1); 3, Gold Honor (11-4 fav). 9 ran. 1½l, 1½l. M Channon. Tote: £4.80; £1.50, £4.00, £1.30. DF: £221.50. CSF: £57.98.

3.50 (2m 5f 122yd) 1, **Imad** (R Mullen, 14-1); 2, Charming Admiral (16-1); 3, Danegold (6-1). Campaign (5th) 9-2 fav. 14 ran. 1½l, 7l. K Comerford. Tote: £42.80; £8.70, £4.90, £2.40. DF: £353.90. CSF: £196.90. Tricast: £1,370.67.

4.20 (6f) 1, **Further Outlook** (K Darley, 9-1); 2, Kingdom Ruby (14-1); 3, Pleading (10-1); 4, Agent Mulder (6-1 jt-fav). Cool Secret 6-1 jt-fav. 16 ran. NR: Nifty Norman, Pigeon. 2½l, hd. D Nicholls. Tote: £7.80; £2.00, £5.00, £2.70, £2.30. DF: £36.60. CSF: £107.32. Tricast: £1,181.69.

4.50 (1m 4yd) 1, **Night Chorus** (F Lynch, 10-1); 2, Knobbleeneeze (10-1); 3, Bachelors Pad (11-2). Margaret's Dancer 4-1 fav. 19 ran. 3½l, 1l. B Rothwell. Tote: £14.80; £3.90, £3.40, £2.60. DF: £53.90. CSF: £103.36.

5.20 (1m 2l 6yd) 1, **Aspirant Dancer** (R Mullen, 2-1 fav); 2, Typhoon Eight (20-1); 3, Shathshayes (13-2); 4, Legal Issue (10-1). 18 ran. 2½l, 2l. M Bell. Tote: £2.60; £1.20, £6.50, £1.50, £2.20. DF: £157.30. CSF: £50.23. Tricast: £237.79.

Placepot: £95.20 **Quadpot: £68.60**

Exeter

Going: soft

2.15 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, **Summer Flower** (Mr A Irvine, 7-2); 2, Ron's Round (100-30 fav); 3, May Sunset (10-1); 4, Remember Star (12-1). 16 ran. 11l, 3½l. Miss Z Davison. Tote: £4.40; £1.20, £1.20, £2.90, £2.40. DF: £4.00. CSF: £13.22. Tricast: £98.48.

2.50 (2m 7f hdle) 1, **Kentford Tina** (A Bates, 5-1); 2, Crookedstone (4-1); 3, The Hill Has Moved (9-4 fav). 13 ran. NR: You're Agoodun. 1½l, 16l. J Mullins. Tote: £7.30; £1.80, £1.50, £1.20. DF: £22.00. CSF: £24.37.

3.25 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, **Defendtherealm** (J Frost, 5-2); 2, Glacial King (16-1); 3, Joy For Life (6-4 fav). 8 ran. NR: Carmers Joy. 3½l, 3l. R Frost. Tote: £2.50; £1.60, £2.30, £1.10. DF: £18.10. CSF: £33.79. Tricast: £73.42.

4.00 (2m 1f 110yd ch) 1, **Just Jasmine** (R Greene, 11-8 fav); 2, Kibreet (5-1); 3, Ambleside (9-4). 5 ran. 6l, 3l. P Bishop. Tote: £2.60; £1.10, £2.30. DF: £5.30. CSF: £7.69.

4.30 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, **Pot Black Uk** (Mr P Flynn, 6-4 fav); 2, Distant Storm (9-1); 3, Tonka (3-1). 5 ran. 1l, 11l. P Hobbs. Tote: £2.70; £1.10, £2.30. DF: £4.40. CSF: £12.58.

5.00 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, **Sandoran** (X Aizpuru, 11-4 jt-fav); 2, Topanga (8-1); 3, Cerrio (7-2). Barnane Walk (4th) 11-4 jt-fav. 6 ran. 7l, 5l. M Hill. Tote: £3.80; £2.40, £3.10. DF: £17.70. CSF: £20.70.

Placepot: £14.70 **Quadpot: £7.50**

Tuesday's late results

Windsor

Going: good to soft

6.30 (1m 67yd) 1, **Sweet Pea** (T Quinn, 4-1 jt-fav); 2, Bird Of Prey (14-1); 3, Brenda Dee (20-1). Respond 4-1 jt-fav. 9 ran. 6l, hd. J Dunlop. Tote: £4.10; £1.70, £4.70, £2.00. DF: £64.80. CSF: £54.37. Tricast: £905.59.

7.00 (5f 10yd) 1, **Mister Tricky** (N Day, 16-1); 2, Cold Climate (16-1); 3, Dancing Mystery (7-1). Polly Golightly 4-1 fav. 15 ran. Nk, ¾l. P Mitchell. Tote: £24.90; £6.80, £6.10, £2.60. DF: £278.10. CSF: £227.51. Tricast: £1,836.81.

7.30 (1m 67yd) 1, **Barrister** (T Sprake, 10-1); 2, Middelkerke (12-1); 3, Compatriot (2-1 fav). 18 ran. 1¼l, 5l. R Charlton. Tote: £13.30; £3.70, £4.00, £1.20. DF: £94.10. CSF: £127.73.

8.00 (1m 2f 7yd) 1, **Statejack** (T Quinn, 10-1); 2, Rhenbold (14-1); 3, Bronzino (7-1); 4, Homestead (3-1 fav). 19 ran. NR: Broughtons Error, Gallant Fellow, Sweet Patoopie. Nk, 2½l. D Elsworth. Tote: £13.10; £2.50, £3.50, £2.50, £1.20. DF: £56.50. CSF: £135.63. Tricast: £992.39.

Placepot: £190.00. **Quadpot: £59.80.**

Huntingdon

Going: good

6.45 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Dream Of Nurmi** (Mr R Forristal, 11-10 fav); 2, Sharazan (25-1); 3, Enipeus (2-1). 19 ran. Nk, 4l. K Bailey. Tote: £2.20; £1.30, £2.50, £1.30. DF: £38.20. CSF: £33.81.

7.15 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, **Marching Marquis** (Mr T Gloney, 11-10 fav); 2, Pangeran (11-4); 3, Sharley Cop (13-2). 12 ran. NR: Banchsie. ¾l, 15l. Gary Brown. Tote: £2.00; £1.40, £1.10, £2.20. DF: £3.10. CSF: £3.98.

7.45 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, **Ball Strong** (Mr N Fehily, 5-2 fav); 2, Northern Star (9-1); 3, Kelly Mac (12-1). 13 ran. NR: Fearless Wonder, Job Rage. ¾l, 2l. G Hubbard. Tote: £3.00; £1.40, £1.40, £2.90. DF: £12.80. CSF: £21.09. Tricast: £207.51.

Placepot: £5.60. **Quadpot: £3.10**

REDCAR

ROB WRIGHT

2.20 The Wife
2.50 Susy Wells
3.20 Birchwood Sun
3.50 On Till Morning
4.20 Nabonassar
4.50 Bold Amusement (nb)

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.50 ROSE'S TREASURE.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.20 MIDDLETON TYAS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,407: 5f) (17 runners)

101 (10) WILL IVESON (Lord Bolton) P Haslam 8-12 ... C Lowther –
102 (6) 3 COMMONWOOD 17 (Highfields Partnership I) J G Smyth-Osbourne 8-8 S Sanders [illegible]
103 (5) 0 JACQUES REPLY 24 (Good Hand Racing Club) J Berry 8-8 ... J Carroll –
104 (15) PHARAOH'S HOUSE (P England) T Easterby 8-8 ... K Darley –
105 (13) AFRICA (Harrogate Bloodstock Ltd) T Barron 8-7 ... J Fortune –
106 (12) LATE NIGHT LADY (Jack Of All Trades Partnership) P Haslam 8-7 P Goode (5) –
107 (2) 0 COOL JUDGE 14 (A Swinbank) W Haigh 8-5 ... A Culhane –
108 (4) EURO DANDY (W Swears) D Nicholls 8-5 ... A McCarthy (3) –
109 (14) 0 TOPPO'S GEM 22 (Fairlawn Partnership) K Ryan 8-5 ... J Fanning –
110 (9) CITY PRINCESS (A Watson) M Dods 8-3 ... F Lynch –
111 (8) 04 COLLEGE MAID 19 (Bruce Partnership) J Goldie 8-3 ... W Supple 46
112 (7) MISS ROXANNE (M Burley) K Hogg 8-3 ... J Bramhill –
113 (16) THE WIFE (J Gill) T Easterby 8-3 ... L Charnock –
114 (17) 3 ALABAMA WURLEY 9 (Wacky Racing) D Morris 8-0 ... G Bardwell 38
115 (11) ALUSTAR (T Beston) M W Easterby 8-0 ... G Parkin –
116 (1) DISPOL EMMA (W Imison) P Calver 8-0 ... J McAuley (7) –
117 (3) SPRING SONG (Racing Ladies) M Sowersby 8-0 ... R Winston (3) –

BETTING: 9-4 Commonwood, 6-1 The Wife, 7-1 Jacques Reply, 8-1 Africa, 12-1 Pharaoh's House, 14-1 others.

1998: ANGIE BABY 8-0 S Maloney (5-1) J Berry 15 ran

COMMONWOOD would have been better placed with a higher draw but is still the most likely winner. He was similarly badly drawn when a slow-starting, never-nearer 6¼l third of 17 to Optimaite at Windsor (5f, good to firm) on his debut and should do better for that experience. Optimaite followed up in impressive style at Ascot yesterday. Alabama Wurley is well positioned on the stands' rails but the form of her debut 4¼l third to Charleigh Keary in a Folkestone (5f, soft) claimer appears only modest. College Maid failed to improve on her debut effort when 9l fourth to Barringer at Hamilton (5f, heavy) and there are almost certainly bigger dangers lurking amongst the newcomers. Pat Haslam saddles two interesting sorts in Will Iveson, a half-brother by Mukaddamah to a winner in Italy, and Late Night Lady, a Mujadil filly who is a half-sister to winners here and abroad, while The Wife, an Efisio filly out of 7f winner Great Steps, is another who makes some appeal on paper.

2.50 NAWTON APPRENTICES MAIDEN HANDICAP
(£1,882: 1m 1f) (16 runners)

201 (2) 000-50 OLLIE'S CHUCKLE 52 (Mrs S Quinn) J J Quinn 4-9-10 ... S Finnamore [illegible]
202 (11) 0-3000 COOL PROSPECT 13 (Mrs C Reilly) K Ryan 4-9-9 ... D Glennon (3) 71
203 (15) 602-0 ROYAL REPRIMAND 22 (J Garbutt) R Barr 4-9-5 ... W Hutchinson 37
204 (3) -44532 SWAMPY 9 (Gallagher Equine Ltd) N Callaghan 3-9-5 ... L Newman 56
205 (14) 2020-4 SAND HAWK 114 (J Frebwell) D Shaw 4-9-4 ... P Cleary 63
206 (1) 420-00 GINNER MORRIS 76 (Mrs M Rogers) C Booth 4-9-2 ... M Semple 70
207 (10) 6065-4 SUSY WELLS 12 (T) (C Moore) J Parkes 4-9-2 ... J Savage 60
208 (9) 0400-0 DANZAS 10 (M James) J Bradley 5-9-1 ... D Hayden 66
209 (16) 364-06 OCEAN DRIVE 12 (Sutherland Marell Hay) Miss L Perratt 3-9-0 Dawn Rankin (8) 54
210 (4) 600-00 STARLINER 83 (Northgate Lodgers) M Brittain 4-9-0 ... R Farmer (3) 66
211 (5) 0006-0 QUIZ MASTER 29 (Mrs R Heaton) E Weymes 4-8-12 ... G Sparkes (5) 71
212 (6) 0650-0 ALBERKINNIE 21 (P Barrett) J L Harris 4-8-12 ... S Mayne (8) 52
213 (13) 06000- QUINTRELL DOWNS 77J (Mr & Mrs D Gamble) R Cowell 4-8-11 ... J Bosley –
214 (7) 0405-4 GILOU 22 (Richmond & Paxton) C Fairhurst 3-8-11 ... J Grantham (3) 54
215 (8) 4602- PRETTY OBVIOUS 198 (H Hurst) R Fahey 3-8-11 ... P Hanagan (8) 58
216 (12) 64040- EXECUTIVE CHOICE 186J (Couriers Syndicate) B Ellison 5-8-10 ... R Fowley 55

BETTING: 3-1 Swampy, 4-1 Gilou, 9-2 Pretty Obvious, 7-1 Sand Hawk, 8-1 Susy Wells, 10-1 others.

1998: ARDLEIGH CHARMER 3-8-3 J Gotobed (4-1 jt fav) C Dwyer 15 ran

Not surprisingly a low-grade affair for a maiden handicap and recent form is thin on the ground. SWAMPY is one for whom a case can be made and looks sure to go well. He returned a fair effort for Kevin McAuliffe on his final start at two years and, after three runs on the all-weather, ran his best race since when returned to turf at Folkestone (1m 1f 148yd, soft) last time, finishing 3¼l third of 14 to Compton Amica. Susy Wells, runner-up in a Haydock seller (1m) last August, probably has a small race in her and should strip fitter for her 4¾l fourth to Hush Money in a 0-65 rated maiden at Thirsk (7f, good) 12 days ago. Gilou has been eased 2lb in the handicap since her reappearance 6l fourth of 23 to Ultra Calm at Ripon (1m 2f, good to firm), but Pretty Obvious, a 1¾l second to Sunset Lady at Ayr (1m, soft) last October, could just need the outing on her first start since.

3.20 ARKSEY SELLING STAKES (£2,721: 7f) (18 runners)

301 (14) 000-01 BIRCHWOOD SUN 9 (V,CD,F,G,S) (A Walson) M Dods 9-9-9 ... J Fortune 76
302 (11) 306-13 THATS LIFE 33 (F) (T Mills) T Mills 4-9-9 ... L Carter 79
303 (12) -60002 DANDY REGENT 9 (D,G) (J Harrison) J L Harris 5-9-4 ... S Sanders 76
304 (15) 00000- DOUBLE-J 220 (F) (Northgate Lodge Racing Club) M Brittain 5-9-4 .R Farmer (7) 53
305 (3) 000P0/ FIRST GOLD 62J (B,D,F,G,S) (J Bowden) A Smith 10-9-4 ... R Winston (3) –
306 (16) 2050-0 GREY PROSPECT 62 (M Brittain) M Brittain 5-9-4 ... D Mernagh (5) 55
307 (7) 00540- GUILSBOROUGH 185 (BF) (Mason Racing Ltd) D Morris 4-9-4 ... M Tebbutt 63
308 (13) 0160-0 KNAVE'S ASH 13 (D,F,G) (J Hames) D Nicholls 8-9-4 ... Alex Greaves 91
309 (18) 00/40- MYRMIDON 356 (S) (R Rayner) Mrs L Stubbs 5-9-4 ... K Darley 25
310 (9) 0500-0 NAPOLEON STAR 13 (B,T,F) (S Pritchard) Miss J Craze 8-9-4 ... V Halliday 71
311 (4) 0363-0 NOBBY BARNES 15 (F,G,S) (Don Enrico Incisa) Enrico Incisa 10-9-4 Kim Tinkler 72
312 (1) 0030-0 PERSIAN FAYRE 24 (BF,D,F,G) (M Grubb) J Berry 7-9-4 ... J Carroll [illegible]
313 (8) 0000/0 THAT OLD FEELING 14 (F) (G Kelly) G Kelly 7-9-4 ... S Finnamore (7) –
314 (6) 0-2234 TROJAN HERO 57 (BF,D,F,G) (C Buckley) Mrs M Reveley 8-9-4 ... A Culhane 79
315 (5) 2300-0 BOULEVARD ROUGE 13 (K Hodgson) M W Easterby 4-8-13 ... T Lucas 72
316 (17) 0300-0 COLOURS TO GOLD 19 (J Wilson) J Eyre 4-8-13 ... R Lappin 58
317 (10) 6/0-00 ESSE 7 (T) (Rufus Partnership) A Smith 4-8-13 ... R FitzPatrick (5) –
318 (2) 06 TREASURE COVE 8 (T Finch) Miss L Perratt 3-8-0 ... W Supple 23

BETTING: 4-1 Trojan Hero, 5-1 Thats Life, 6-1 Knave's Ash, 7-1 Birchwood Sun, Myrmidon, 8-1 Persian Fayre, 10-1 Dandy Regent, 20-1 others.

1998: BIRCHWOOD SUN 8-9-9 K Darley (7-2 jt fav) M Dods 10 ran

Neither Birchwood Sun nor Dandy Regent had shown their best for a little while before filling the first two places in an 18-runner seller at Pontefract (6f, soft) nine days ago. The former, who had 3½l in hand at the line, is fancied to confirm superiority on 5lb worse terms, but PERSIAN FAYRE is preferred to the pair. He showed some useful form last year when winning at Haydock and competing in handicaps off marks in the 80s and takes a big drop in class here. The worry is that he is not the horse he was after he showed little in two hurdle starts this winter and was soundly beaten back on the Flat at Newcastle (7f) earlier in the month, but there was good market support for him at Gosforth Park and an unfavourable low draw did little for his chance. Thats Life made light work of a Lingfield seller (6f) on the all-weather in February and continued in form when finishing 3l third to Malha in a Wolverhampton claimer (6f, standard) the following month. He has yet to encounter ground this soft on turf but should not be far away if handling the conditions.

READING THE RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F - fell. P - pulled up. U - unseated rider. B - brought down. S - slipped up. R - refused. D - disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps. (B - blinkers. V - visor. T - tongue strap. H - hood. E - Eyeshield. C - course winner. D - distance winner. CD course and distance winner. BF - beaten favourite in most recent race). Going on which horse has won (F - firm, good to firm, hard. G - good. S - soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight to be carried. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

3.50 CLIFTON WOOD FILLIES HANDICAP
(£5,248: 5f) (11 runners)

401 (10) 8523- FLYING THE FLAG 213 (Adams/Bloy/Galloway/Thomas) J J Quinn 3-10-0 S Sanders 58
402 (3) 4030-0 FRILLY FRONT 13 (D,S) (M Dalby) T Barron 3-9-13 ... J Fortune 69
403 (9) 6060-0 DOMINELLE 13 (C,D,F,S) (Sandmoor Textiles Co) T Easterby 7-9-10 .G Parkin 88
404 (11) 0003-0 D'MARTI 24 (D,S) (Mrs M Rogers) C Booth 4-9-10 ... A Culhane 71
405 (8) 4223-6 CHARLIE GIRL 8 (D,F) (Mr & Mrs Holderoft) J Berry 3-9-7 ... J Carroll 79
406 (2) 32031- ON TILL MORNING 227 (D,G) (D Stanley) P Calver 3-9-4 ... K Darley 74
407 (4) 21050- BOLLIN ANN 211 (D,F) (Lady Westbrook) T Easterby 4-9-2 ... L Charnock 82
408 (1) 550-02 ROSE'S TREASURE 8 (D,S) (J Kee) B Rothwell 3-9-1 ... R Winston (3) [illegible]
409 (7) 2150-U DAWN PATROL 2 (D,S) (Ashdyn Stud Ltd) K Hogg 4-8-11 ... J Bramhill 73
410 (6) 000/51 WHIZZ KID 14 (D,F,S) (B Paling) J Bradley 5-8-5 ... C Carver (5) 73
411 (5) 00000- GOLD EDGE 157 (F) (Don Enrico Incisa) Enrico Incisa 5-8-2 ... Kim Tinkler 75

BETTING: 7-2 Rose's Treasure, 9-2 Whizz Kid, 6-1 On Till Morning, 7-1 Dominelle, 8-1 Frilly Front, Charlie Girl, 10-1 Flying The Flag, D'Marti, Bollin Ann, 25-1 others.

1998: JENNELLE 4-10-0 D Holland (5-4 fav) C Dwyer 6 ran

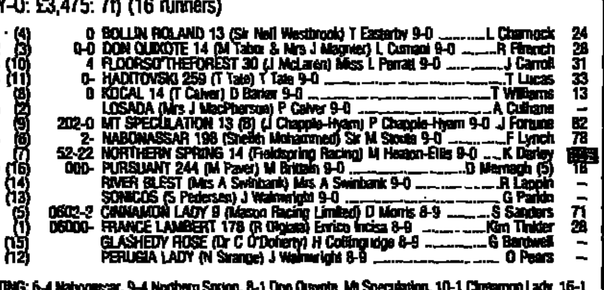
Whizz Kid sprung a 33-1 surprise when beating Ivory's Grab Hire ¾l over course and distance from 9lb out of the handicap two weeks ago. That did not look a fluke but, off a mark 8lb higher, she will have to improve again. ROSE'S TREASURE lost her way during the second half of last season and cut little ice on her return, but hinted that she was ready to bounce back to her best when chasing home Beveleena at Catterick (5f, soft) last week. She had Charlie Girl (same terms) 3l back that day and, with underfoot conditions again in her favour, can go one better. On Till Morning gained reward for her consistency when making all in an ordinary maiden at Musselburgh (5f) in September. She is the type to pay her way this year but is unlikely to be able to dominate here as Charlie Girl, Bollin Ann (won here in August) and Frilly Front (ran poorly on reappearance) all like to force the pace. Dominelle will be all the better for her comeback effort at Thirsk and makes more appeal than Gold Edge, who is on a losing run of 23, and Dawn Patrol.

4.20 SEDBERGH MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,475: 7f) (16 runners)

501 (4) 0 BOLLIN ROLAND 13 (Sir Neil Westbrook) T Easterby 9-0 ... L Charnock 24
502 (3) 0-0 DON QUIXOTE 14 (M Tabor & Mrs J Magnier) L Cumani 9-0 ... R Ffrench 28
503 (10) 4 FLOORSOTHEFOREST 30 (J McLaren) Miss L Perratt 9-0 ... J Carroll 31
504 (11) 0- HADITOVSKI 259 (T Tate) T Tate 9-0 ... T Lucas 33
505 (8) 0 KOCAL 14 (T Calver) D Barker 9-0 ... T Williams 13
506 (2) LOSADA (Mrs J MacPherson) P Calver 9-0 ... A Culhane –
507 (9) 202-0 MT SPECULATION 13 (B) (J Chapple-Hyam) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 .J Fortune 82
508 (6) 2- NABONASSAR 198 (Sheikh Mohammed) Sir M Stoute 9-0 ... F Lynch 78
509 (7) 52-22 NORTHERN SPRING 14 (Fieldspring Racing) M Heaton-Ellis 9-0 ... K Darley [illegible]
510 (16) 000- PURSUANT 244 (M Paver) M Brittain 9-0 ... D Mernagh (5) 18
511 (14) RIVER BLEST (Mrs A Swinbank) Mrs A Swinbank 9-0 ... R Lappin –
512 (13) SONICOS (S Pedersen) J Wainwright 9-0 ... G Parkin –
513 (5) 0602-2 CINNAMON LADY 9 (Mason Racing Limited) D Morris 8-9 ... S Sanders 71
514 (1) 06000- FRANCE LAMBERT 178 (R Olgiati) Enrico Incisa 8-9 ... Kim Tinkler 28
515 (15) GLASHEDY ROSE (Dr C O'Doherty) H Collingridge 8-9 ... G Bardwell –
516 (12) PERUGIA LADY (N Strange) J Wainwright 8-9 ... O Pears –

BETTING: 6-4 Nabonassar, 9-4 Northern Spring, 8-1 Don Quixote, Mt Speculation, 10-1 Cinnamon Lady, 16-1 Bollin Roland, Floorsotheforest, 25-1 others.

1998: BODFARI PRIDE 9-0 D Wright (7-2) A Bailey 11 ran



NABONASSAR (nap) ran a race brimming with promise when staying on strongly to be 2l second to Little Rock, his stablemate, at Leicester (7f, good to soft) in October. That 18-runner maiden race has thrown up a string of subsequent winners (including Backcloth, Kuster and Ettrick) while Little Rock did not let the form down when beating Ballet Master and company on his return at Sandown. Northern Spring, beaten a neck by Sharoura on his comeback at Doncaster (6f) before going down by just a short-head to Date at Newmarket (7f), deserves a change of fortune but may again have to settle for silver. Mt Speculation, well beaten on his return in a hot handicap at Newmarket (1m, good to firm), is dropped in grade and will appreciate the softer going. Cinnamon Lady, no match for Rainbow Romeo at Folkestone (7f, heavy), will have to show significant improvement to trouble the principals. Glashedy Rose, who is a half-sister to three middle-distance winners, looks the most interesting of the five newcomers.

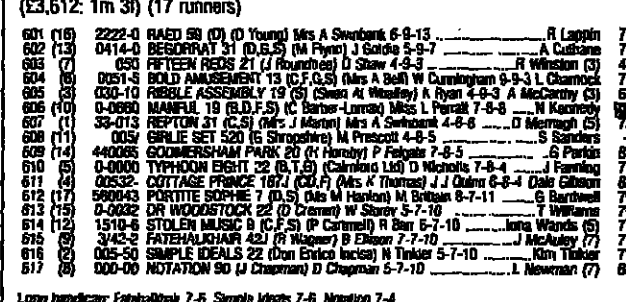
4.50 PAT PHOENIX HANDICAP
(£3,612: 1m 3f) (17 runners)

601 (16) 2222-0 RAED 59 (D) (D Young) Mrs A Swinbank 6-9-13 ... R Lappin 75
602 (13) 0414-0 BEGORRAT 31 (D,G,S) (M Flynn) J Goldie 5-9-7 ... A Culhane 76
603 (7) 050 FIFTEEN REDS 21 (J Roundtree) D Shaw 4-9-3 ... R Winston (3) 40
604 (6) 0051-5 BOLD AMUSEMENT 13 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs A Bell) W Cunningham 9-9-3 L Charnock 72
605 (3) 030-10 RIBBLE ASSEMBLY 19 (S) (Swan At Wealley) K Ryan 4-9-3 A McCarthy (3) 68
606 (10) 0-0660 MANFUL 19 (B,D,F,S) (C Barber-Lomax) Miss L Perratt 7-8-8 ... N Kennedy [illegible]
607 (1) 33-013 REPTON 31 (C,S) (Mrs J Martin) Mrs A Swinbank 4-8-6 ... D Mernagh (5) 73
608 (11) 005/ GIRLIE SET 520 (G Shropshire) M Prescott 4-8-5 ... S Sanders –
609 (14) 440065 GOODMERSHAM PARK 20 (K Hornby) P Felgate 7-8-5 ... G Parkin 86
610 (5) 0-0000 TYPHOON EIGHT 22 (B,T,G) (Calmford Ltd) D Nicholls 7-8-4 ... J Fanning 77
611 (4) 00532- COTTAGE PRINCE 187J (CD,F) (Mrs K Thomas) J J Quinn 6-8-4 Dale Gibson 82
612 (17) 560043 PORTITE SOPHIE 7 (D,S) (Ms M Hanlon) M Brittain 8-7-11 ... G Bardwell 79
613 (15) 0-0032 DR WOODSTOCK 22 (D Cramer) W Storey 5-7-10 ... T Williams 79
614 (12) 1510-6 STOLEN MUSIC 9 (C,F,S) (P Cartmell) R Barr 6-7-10 ... Iona Wands (5) 77
615 (9) 3/42-2 FATEHALKHAIR 42J (R Wagner) B Ellison 7-7-10 ... J McAuley (7) 77
616 (2) 005-50 SIMPLE IDEALS 22 (Don Enrico Incisa) N Tinkler 5-7-10 ... Kim Tinkler 71
617 (8) 000-00 NOTATION 90 (J Chapman) D Chapman 5-7-10 ... L Newman (7) 60

Long handicap: Fatehalkhair 7-6, Simple Ideals 7-6, Notation 7-4.

BETTING: 4-1 Fatehalkhair, 9-2 Repton, 8-1 Begorrat, Bold Amusement, Cottage Prince, 10-1 Portite Sophie, Stolen Music, 12-1 others.

1998: RICCARTON 5-8-12 K Darley (13-2) P Calver 10 ran



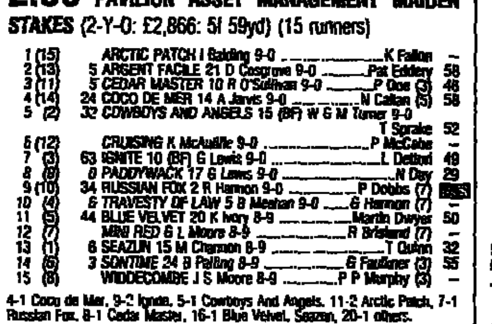
Dr Woodstock had Portite Sophie (4th), Simple Ideals (8th), and Typhoon Eight (14th) all behind when chasing home Piccadilly in a selling handicap here (1m 4f) three weeks ago and is weighted to confirm the form. He should give a good account but preference is for BOLD AMUSEMENT. The nine-year-old proved he was still capable of getting his head in front when staying on stoutly to beat Oxbane (received 15lb) by a neck here in November (1m 2f, good to soft) and shaped encouragingly on his return when a keeping-on fifth, having been set plenty to do, to Legal Issue at Thirsk (1m). That run will have blown away a few cobwebs and this longer trip will suit him much better. Repton, not disgraced behind Prince Nicholas at Hamilton (1m 4f, heavy), and Fatehalkhair, ½l second to behind Over To You at Southwell (1m 4f) on his reappearance, look the best of the remainder.

BRIGHTON

ROB WRIGHT

2.00 Cowboys And Angels
2.30 Emmajoun
3.00 Caernarfon Bay (nap)
3.30 Shanghi Crab
4.00 Miss Bananas
4.30 Lucky Gitano
5.00 Mellors
5.30 Ardent

GOING: GOOD
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS



2.00 PAVILION ASSET MANAGEMENT MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,866: 5f 59yd) (15 runners)

1 (15) ARCTIC PATCH I Balding 9-0 ... K Fallon –
2 (13) 5 ARGENT FACILE 21 D Cosgrove 9-0 ... Pat Eddery 58
3 (11) 5 CEDAR MASTER 10 R O'Sullivan 9-0 ... P Doe (3) 46
4 (14) 24 COCO DE MER 14 A Jarvis 9-0 ... N Callan (5) 58
5 (2) 32 COWBOYS AND ANGELS 15 (BF) W G M Turner 9-0 ... T Sprake 52
6 (12) CRUISING K McAuliffe 9-0 ... P McCabe –
7 (3) 63 IGNITE 10 (BF) G Lewis 9-0 ... L Dettori 49
8 (9) 0 PADDYWACK 17 G Lewis 9-0 ... N Day 29
9 (10) 34 RUSSIAN FOX 2 R Hannon 9-0 ... P Dobbs (7) [illegible]
10 (4) 6 TRAVESTY OF LAW 5 B Meehan 9-0 ... G Hannon (7) –
11 (5) 44 BLUE VELVET 20 K Ivory 8-9 ... Martin Dwyer 50
12 (7) MINI RED G L Moore 8-9 ... R Brisland (7) –
13 (1) 6 SEAZUN 15 M Channon 8-9 ... T Quinn 32
14 (6) 3 SONTIME 24 B Palling 8-9 ... G Faulkner (3) 55
15 (8) WIDDECOMBE J S Moore 8-9 ... P P Murphy (3) –

4-1 Coco de Mer, 9-2 Ignite, 5-1 Cowboys And Angels, 11-2 Arctic Patch, 7-1 Russian Fox, 8-1 Cedar Master, 16-1 Blue Velvet, Seazun, 20-1 others.

2.30 BRIGHTON ANTIQUES FAIR THIS WEEKEND CLAIMING STAKES (£2,232: 5f 59yd) (12)



1 (8) 00-1 MALIBU MAN 29 (D,F,G,S) E Wheeler 7-8-8 .S Carson (5) 75
2 (9) 4200 MANGUS 6 (D,F) K Cunningham-Brown 5-9-4 ..L Dettori [illegible]
3 (10) 45-0 BUZZING 24 R Hannon 4-9-2 ... Dane O'Neill 67
4 (3) -100 EMMAJOUN 13 (D) W G M Turner 4-9-1 ... T Sprake 80
5 (6) 062/ CELTIC VENTURE 812 J C Poulton 4-9-0 ... P Doe (3) –
6 (4) 0040 JOHNNY STACCATO 2 (D,G,S) M Quinn 5-8-12 ... F Norton 86
7 (7) 00-0 CAMPIONE 24J M Tompkins 4-8-8 ... S Drowne 59
8 (12) 5000 JUSTINIANUS 84 (C,G) J Bridger 7-8-8 ..R Brisland (7) 78
9 (2) 6/60 REWARD 10 (B) D Williams 5-8-8 ... D Griffiths –
10 (1) 0-00 MUJA'S MAGIC 16 (V,C,G) K Ivory 4-8-7 .N Pollard (3) 83
11 (11) 40-0 PALACEGATE GOLD 90J (CD,F,G,S) J Long 10-8-6 ... S Whitworth 68
12 (5) 600- PORLOCK LADY 241 R Hodges 4-8-5 ..P P Murphy (3) 66

9-4 Mangus, 3-1 Malibu Man, 5-1 Emmajoun, 13-2 Muja's Magic, 7-1 Buzzing, 10-1 Reward, 25-1 Johnny Staccato, Porlock Lady, 33-1 others.

3.00 AYH PARTNERSHIP HANDICAP
(£2,761: 1m 3f 196yd) (18 runners)

1 (16) 0-00 RODERICK HUDSON 42 (F) J R Poulton 7-10-0 A Morris 29
2 (18) 4-00 ADMIRALS SECRET 22 (CD,G) C Wall 10-9-13 ... Pat Eddery 66
3 (5) 00-3 PAY HOMAGE 8 (D,F,G) I Balding 11-9-12 ... Leanne Masterton (7) 65
4 (6) 14-0 BROWNING 24 (D,F) D Coakley 4-9-12 ... M Roberts 81
5 (9) 030- TRAMLINE 173 (S) M Blanshard 6-9-11 ... C Rutter 57
6 (17) -005 TALIB 2 (D,S) P Mitchell 5-9-11 ... N Callan (5) 77
7 (12) 440- NICE GUY 33J S Dow 4-9-10 ... P Doe (3) –
8 (4) 030- FORBES PARK 234 C Horgan 4-9-10 ... S Drowne 53
9 (10) 4-00 U K MAGIC 16 J Jenkins 4-9-10 ... L Dettori 42
10 (2) 0-00 VIDAME 8 R Flower 4-9-7 ... P Dobbs (7) 47
11 (13) 3131 ALSAHIB 3 (D) W Muir 6-9-7 (6ex) ... Martin Dwyer 57
12 (3) 500- MYSTIC QUEST 49J (B,D,F) K McAuliffe 5-9-6 K Fallon 39
13 (1) 00-0 MAITREYA 17 (T) C Allen 4-9-2 ... G Hind 66
14 (14) 20-0 CLASSIC CONKERS 24 (S) Pat Mitchell 5-9-2 ..A Clark 88
15 (11) 00-0 MYSTIC RIDGE 28 (B) B Curley 5-9-1 ..G Faulkner (3) [illegible]
16 (7) 1353 CAERNARFON BAY 53 G L Moore 4-9-1 ... T Quinn 64
17 (8) 50-0 OCEAN LINE 10 K Bell 4-9-0 ... T Sprake 64
18 (15) 5150 HURGILL DANCER 24 (D,G) R O'Sullivan 5-8-11 ... N Pollard (3) 66

5-1 Admirals Secret, 6-1 Pay Homage, 7-1 Mystic Quest, 8-1 Alsahib, 10-1 Mystic Ridge, Caernarfon Bay, 12-1 Roderick Hudson, 14-1 others.

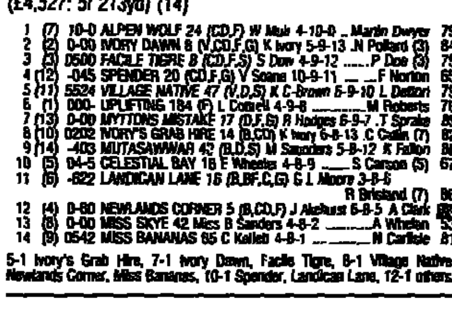
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: BRIGHTON: 2.30 Reward; 3.00 Mystic Quest; 4.00 Village Native, 5.00 Crested Knight, 5.30 Young-Un. REDCAR 4.20 Mt Speculation. WOLVERHAMPTON 2.10 Baytown Melody

3.30 WYNNE BAXTER GODFREE SOLICITORS CLASSIFIED STAKES (£3,745: 7f 214yd) (7)

1 (7) 1-03 BOLD ORIENTAL 84 (D,F) J Hills 5-9-7 ... J Fowle (7) 84
2 (6) 10-0 GRAND SLAM 34 (D,F) R Hannon 4-9-7 ... Dane O'Neill 80
3 (4) 60-5 IRON MOUNTAIN 35 (C,G) N Callaghan 4-9-7 N Callan (5) 73
4 (3) 0-60 MANSA MUSA 24 M Channon 4-9-7 ... T Quinn [illegible]
5 (2) 00-3 SKY DOME 34 (D,F,S) M Tompkins 6-9-7 ... S Drowne 83
6 (5) 1 SHANGHI CRAB 38 (D) M Bell 3-8-9 ... M Fenton 46
7 (1) 430- GHAAZI 195 (T) E Dunlop 3-8-7 ... R Hills 70

5-2 Shanghi Crab, 11-4 Sky Dome, 3-1 Ghaazi, 7-1 Iron Mountain, 8-1 Grand Slam, 14-1 Bold Oriental, 20-1 Mansa Musa.

4.00 GO RACING FREE WITH THE TOTE HANDICAP
(£4,527: 5f 213yd) (14)



1 (7) 10-0 ALPEN WOLF 24 (CD,F) W Muir 4-10-0 .. Martin Dwyer 79
2 (2) 0-00 IVORY DAWN 8 (V,CD,F,G) K Ivory 5-9-13 .N Pollard (3) 84
3 (3) 0500 FACILE TIGRE 8 (CD,F,S) S Dow 4-9-12 ... P Doe (3) 79
4 (12) -045 SPENDER 20 (CD,F,G) V Soane 10-9-11 ... F Norton 65
5 (11) 5524 VILLAGE NATIVE 47 (V,D,S) K C-Brown 6-9-10 L Dettori 79
6 (1) 000- UPLIFTING 184 (F) L Cottrell 4-9-8 ... M Roberts 78
7 (13) 0-00 MYTTONS MISTAKE 17 (D,F,G) R Hodges 6-9-7 .T Sprake 89
8 (10) 0202 IVORY'S GRAB HIRE 14 (B,CD) K Ivory 6-8-13 .C Catlin (7) 82
9 (14) -403 MUTASAWWAR 42 (B,D,S) M Saunders 5-8-12 K Fallon 80
10 (5) 04-5 CELESTIAL BAY 16 E Wheeler 4-8-9 ... S Carson (5) 67
11 (6) -622 LANDICAN LANE 16 (B,BF,C,G) G L Moore 3-8-6 ... R Brisland (7) 86
12 (4) 0-60 NEWLANDS CORNER 5 (B,CD,F) J Akehurst 6-8-5 A Clark [illegible]
13 (8) 0-00 MISS SKYE 42 Miss B Sanders 4-8-2 ... A Whelan 53
14 (9) 0542 MISS BANANAS 65 C Kellett 4-8-1 ... N Carlisle 81

5-1 Ivory's Grab Hire, 7-1 Ivory Dawn, Facile Tigre, 8-1 Village Native, Newlands Corner, Miss Bananas, 10-1 Spender, Landican Lane, 12-1 others.

4.30 HYDE BURGESS DESIGN MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,285: 1m 1f 209yd) (8)

1 (7) 050- ASSURED MOVEMENTS 317 C Brittain 9-0 P Robinson 72
2 (2) 634 LAMERIE 13 R Hannon 9-0 ... Dane O'Neill 76
3 (1) 25-3 LUCKY GITANO 26 J Dunlop 9-0 ... Pat Eddery [illegible]
4 (4) 00-4 LUCKY RED 9 Pat Mitchell 9-0 ... A Clark 54
5 (5) 0- SHARH 267 B Hanbury 9-0 ... R Hills 47
6 (6) 0-0 ALMINSTAR 10 C Cyzer 8-9 ... G Faulkner (3) 29
7 (8) 00-0 RENAISSANCE LADY 29 T Watson 8-9 ... V Slattery 42
8 (3) 0- WANSFORD LADY 197 C Kellett 8-9 ... N Carlisle –

10-11 Lucky Gitano, 5-2 Lamerie, 6-1 Assured Movements, 10-1 others.

5.00 CUMING PENTAR ARCHITECTS HANDICAP
(Div I: £2,879: 7f 214yd) (15)

1 (10) 6445 OUDALMUTEENA 9 (BF) V Soane 4-9-12 ... A Daly (3) 68
2 (12) 2553 PROSPECTOR'S COVE 17 (CD,G) J Pearce 6-9-7 ..R Price 83
3 (5) 030- MOROCCO 188 (D,F,S) M Channon 10-9-6 D Mason (7) 79
4 (1) 001- MOON AT NIGHT 218 (D,F) L Cottrell 4-9-1 ..T Sprake 67
5 (11) 30-0 WORTH THE EFFORT 17 M Tompkins 4-9-0 ..S Drowne 82
6 (7) 40-5 DOLPHINELLE 33 R Hannon 3-8-12 ... Dane O'Neill 65
7 (3) 40-0 MELLORS 12J (CD,F,G) M Heaton-Ellis 6-8-11 K Fallon 78
8 (14) 20-0 JUNIKAY 17 (C,G) R Ingram 5-8-10 ... N Pollard (3) 82
9 (13) 30-0 POLAR ECLIPSE 10 (S) K Burke 6-8-8 ..N Callan (5) 71
10 (9) -010 THE STAGER 17 (V,T,D,F,G) J Jenkins 7-8-7 ..L Dettori 77
11 (15) 001/ CRESTED KNIGHT 946 (B,D,F) C Horgan 7-8-2 A Clark –
12 (8) 5115 KINGCHIP BOY 23 (CD,F,G) M Ryan 10-8-0 .P Robinson 97
13 (2) 0000 POLISH LEGION 17 (F) J Akehurst 6-7-11 ..P Doe (3) 97
14 (4) 300- PRESS AGAIN 155 P Hayward 7-7-10 ... J Lowe 59
15 (6) 0-00 SEA SPOUSE 20 (D,S) M Blanshard 8-7-10 ... C Rutter [illegible]

9-2 Mellors, 5-1 Prospector's Cove, 6-1 Oudalmuteena, 7-1 others.

5.30 CUMING PENTAR ARCHITECTS HANDICAP
(Div II: £2,866: 7f 214yd) (15)

1 (5) 030- PARTING ECHO 148 J Toller 4-9-10 ... S Whitworth 67
2 (13) 2200 ROI DE DANSE 12 (CD,G) M Quinn 4-9-8 ... F Norton 77
3 (15) 12-2 MUTABASSIR 98 (BF,C,F,S) G L Moore 5-9-5 T Quinn 77
4 (6) 00-0 SWING BALL 21 T Watson 4-9-2 ... V Slattery 17
5 (3) 5400 SCOTLAND BAY 33 (S) P Butler 4-8-13 ... S Drowne 77
6 (7) 30-3 ARBENIG 17 (F) B Palling 4-8-13 ... G Faulkner (3) 66
7 (9) 0-06 AFTER EIGHT 42 (B) M Saunders 4-8-12 ... N Carlisle 64
8 (12) 0-00 YOUNG-UN 13 (B) M Ryan 4-8-10 ... P McCabe 70
9 (10) 6123 SHADES OF LOVE 20 V Soane 5-8-9 ... K Fallon [illegible]
10 (2) 0541 CONFRONTER 20 (CD,F,G,S) S Dow 10-8-7 .P Doe (3) 87
11 (11) 2500 CLONOE 42 (D,F,S) R Ingram 5-8-6 ... N Pollard (3) 75
12 (8) 352- ARDENT 156 (CD,S) Miss B Sanders 5-8-5 ... A Clark 77
13 (1) 2066 FAMOUS 17 (D,F,G,S) J Bridger 6-8-1 .. R Brisland (7) 90
14 (14) -000 TOREERO 90 B Curley 4-8-0 ... C Cogan (7) 77
15 (4) 020- FORT KNOX 37J (B,C,D,F,G) R Flower 8-7-10 ..C Rutter 81

4-1 Mutabassir, 5-1 Confronter, 13-2 Ardent, 8-1 Parting Echo, 10-1 others.

WOLVERHAMPTON

ROB WRIGHT

2.10 Welch's Dream
2.40 Ivor's Deed
3.10 Night Life
3.40 Palacegate Touch
4.10 Dil
4.40 Lisala
5.10 Sunny Chief

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.10 Kirsch. 3.10 NIGHT LIFE (nap). 5.10 Sunny Chief.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.10 SLOANE MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,290: 5f) (11 runners)

1 034 HEATHYARDS LAD 15 R Hollinshead 8-7 ... W Ryan 3
2 RICHARD ANSDELL N Littmoden 8-7 ... J Quinn 11
3 SAMUEL WHISKERS R Phillips 8-5 ... A Nicholls (5) 7
4 2 WELCH'S DREAM 22 J Berry 8-5 ... G Carter 9
5 0 ERIN ANAM CARA 15 D Cosgrove 8-2 ... A McGlone 5
6 DIAMOND OLIVIA W G M Turner 8-0 ... J F Egan 8
7 0 SHAUBAN 17 N Callaghan 8-0 ... P M Quinn (7) 2
8 54 BAYTOWN MELODY 24 (B,BF) P S McEntee 7-12 A Polli (3) 4
9 0 GOOD EVANS ABOVE 17 P Evans 7-12 ... A Mackay 10
10 JOYRENA P D'Arcy 7-12 ... M Henry 6
11 3 KIRSCH 20 C Dwyer 7-12 ... Kimberley Hart (5) 1

7-4 Welch's Dream, 9-2 Kirsch, 7-1 Heathyards Lad, 8-1 others.

2.40 GROSVENOR AMATEUR RIDERS CLAIMING STAKES (Div I: £1,553: 6f) (11)

1 0/03 LYNTON LAD 13 (D,G) E Alston 7-11-10 ..Miss K Jones (7) 4
2 60-0 GRAND ESTATE 12 (D,G) D Chapman 4-11-6 ..Miss R Clark 9
3 060- BREEZED WELL 258 (C,D,F,G,S) B Cambidge 13-11-4 ... Mrs H Noonan (5) 6
4 -600 HI MUJTAHID 59 (C,F) Mrs H Walton 5-11-4 Miss J Ellis (7) 8
5 00-0 BRIAN'S BLUE 13 (T) B Baugh 4-11-2 ..Miss S M Potts (7) 11
6 3054 IVOR'S DEED 75 (V,F,G) P Evans 6-11-0 ... A Evans (3) 5
7 0-00 JACK TO A KING 9 J Balding 4-11-0 ... Mrs S Mickle (7) 1
8 0- NIGHT CHIME 138 (T) Miss A Stokell 4-10-13 ... S Stronge 2
9 0205 RIVER ENSIGN 13 (D,G,S) W Brisbourne 6-10-13 ... Miss K Rockey (7) 10
10 4600 HYPERICO 9 (V,T) Miss S Wilton 5-10-12 Miss E J Jones (3) 3
11 5-0 DIAMOND STEALTH 13 J Eyre 3-10-8 ... R Latham (5) 7

3-1 River Ensign, 4-1 Lynton Lad, 5-1 Grand Estate, Ivor's Deed, 7-1 others.

3.10 PARLIAMENT FILLIES HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,734: 6f) (11)



1 2100 POLLY MILLS 13 (B,D,S) P Evans 9-7 ... J F Egan 7
2 0-00 CHARLENE LACY 14 (S) A Jarvis 8-10 ... D Sweeney 5
3 250- MIDNIGHT ORCHID 243 (D,S) J Berry 8-9 ... G Carter 6
4 0-30 COMPTON AMBER 24 G A Butler 8-6 ... W Ryan 1
5 0-00 SWEET AS A NUT 17 (F,G,S) C Dwyer 8-6 ... G Duffield 10
6 300- ARBOR EALIS 230 (C) R Baker 8-2 ... A Nicholls (5) 2
7 0-10 GUEST OF HONOUR 8 (BF,G) B Hills 7-13 ... P Fessey 3
8 0-33 NIGHT LIFE 3 (S) M Bell 7-11 ... J Quinn 4
9 -410 RISKY VALENTINE 2 (C,D,S) J Spearing 7-10 ... A Mackay 11
10 6-23 MUDDY WATER 41 D Marks 7-10 ... Nicola Wright (7) 8
11 8-36 HEATHYARDS TIPPLE 12 D McCain 7-10 ... P M Quinn (7) 9

7-2 Night Life, 5-1 Polly Mills, Risky Valentine, 6-1 Guest Of Honour, 7-1 others.

3.40 GROSVENOR AMATEUR RIDERS CLAIMING STAKES (Div II: £1,543: 6f) (11)

1 3150 PALACEGATE TOUCH 8 (B,D,F,G,S) J Berry 9-11-10 .S Stronge 1
2 1144 TAKHLID 78 (CD,F,G,S) D Chapman 8-11-10 .Miss R Clark 11
3 020- PETRAGO 237 (CD,G,S) N Smith 11-11-6 Miss T Spearing (5) 2
4 0 SOURCE 33 T Clement 4-11-6 ... A Carson (7) 8
5 -050 MULLAGH HILL LAD 42 (C) N Littmoden 6-11-2 J Salter (7) 3
6 -006 FIGHTER SQUADRON 59 (B,D,F,G,S) R Peacock 10-10-12 ... Mrs C Peacock (5) 6
7 0246 LITTLE IBNR 5 (V,CD,F) P Evans 8-10-12 ... A Evans (3) 5
8 0-00 RYEFIELD STAR 29 (B) D McCain 4-10-12 Miss F Bramley (7) 9
9 0- STERT 163 A Chamberlain 4-10-11 ... F Brennan (5) 4
10 0035 AMINGTON GIRL 47 (B,G) P Evans 4-10-9 .Miss E Folkes (7) 7
11 400- MARTINE 176 W G M Turner 5-10-7 ... Mrs C Price (7) 10

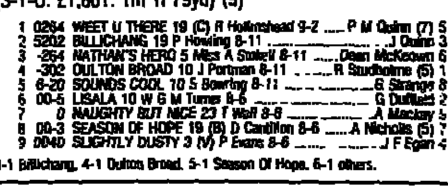
8-11 Takhlid, 5-1 Palacegate Touch, 6-1 Little Ibnr, 10-1 others.

4.10 STANLEY RACING HANDICAP [SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (£7,003: 5f) (13)

1 -100 DIL 13 (D,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 4-10-0 ... Dean McKeown 9
2 0000 KING OF PERU 5 (F,G,S) N Littmoden 6-9-12 .T G McLaughlin 11
3 3005 MUKARRAB 24 (D,G) D Chapman 5-9-9 ... G Duffield 12
4 044- FIRST MAITE 159 (B,CD,G,S) S Bowring 6-9-8 .. G Strange 13
5 5401 TIME TO FLY 20 (B,CD) B Murray 6-8-9 ... J F Egan 1
6 10-0 CARTMEL PARK 30 (D,F,G) J Berry 3-8-8 ... G Carter 8
7 0-00 BLUNDELL LANE 8 (F,G) A Jarvis 4-8-8 ... D Sweeney 6
8 1310 SOTONIAN 20 (CD,S) P Felgate 6-8-7 ... A Nicholls (5) 7
9 2310 TROJAN GIRL 5 (BF,CD) Miss S Wilton 3-8-3 ... K Sked (5) 5
10 5223 DRYAD 16 (B,BF,C) N Littmoden 4-8-2 ... J Tate 4
11 0-66 CONSULTANT 28 (CD) N Littmoden 3-7-13 ... J Quinn 10
12 0-10 SWYNFORD DREAM 12 (D,G) T Etherington 6-7-12 A Mackay 2
13 0-14 MAKE READY 5 (C,D) J Neville 5-7-10 ... A Polli (3) 3

5-1 Blundell Lane, Dil, 6-1 Sotonian, 7-1 Time To Fly, 8-1 Mukarrab, Trojan Girl, 10-1 Cartmel Park, Consultant, 12-1 Swynford Dream, Dryad, 14-1 others.

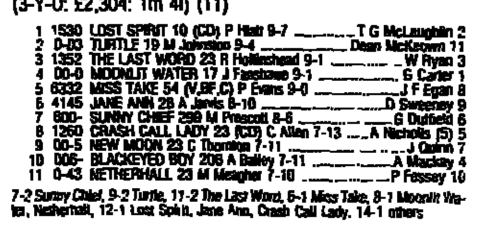
4.40 MANCHESTER SELLING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £1,861: 1m 1f 79yd) (9)



1 0264 WEET U THERE 19 (C) R Hollinshead 9-2 ... P M Quinn (7) 5
2 5202 BILLICHANG 19 P Howling 8-11 ... J Quinn 3
3 -264 NATHAN'S HERO 5 Miss A Stokell 8-11 ... Dean McKeown 6
4 -302 OULTON BROAD 10 J Portman 8-11 ... R Studholme (5) 1
5 6-20 SOUNDS COOL 10 S Bowring 8-11 ... G Strange 8
6 00-5 LISALA 10 W G M Turner 8-6 ... G Duffield 2
7 0 NAUGHTY BUT NICE 23 T Wall 8-6 ... A Mackay 9
8 00-3 SEASON OF HOPE 19 (B) D Cantillon 8-6 ... A Nicholls (5) 7
9 0040 SLIGHTLY DUSTY 3 (V) P Evans 8-6 ... J F Egan 4

3-1 Billichang, 4-1 Oulton Broad, 5-1 Season Of Hope, 6-1 others.

5.10 BERKELEY HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,304: 1m 4f) (11)



1 1530 LOST SPIRIT 10 (CD) P Hiatt 9-7 ... T G McLaughlin 2
2 0-03 TURTLE 19 M Johnston 9-4 ... Dean McKeown 11
3 1352 THE LAST WORD 23 R Hollinshead 9-1 ... W Ryan 3
4 00-0 MOONLIT WATER 17 J Fanshawe 9-1 ... G Carter 1
5 6332 MISS TAKE 54 (V,BF,C) P Evans 9-0 ... J F Egan 8
6 4145 JANE ANN 28 A Jarvis 8-10 ... D Sweeney 9
7 800- SUNNY CHIEF 258 M Prescott 8-8 ... G Duffield 6
8 1260 CRASH CALL LADY 23 (CD) C Allen 7-13 ... A Nicholls (5) 5
9 00-5 NEW MOON 23 C Thornton 7-11 ... J Quinn 7
10 006- BLACKEYED BOY 206 A Bailey 7-11 ... A Mackay 4
11 0-43 NETHERHALL 23 M Meagher 7-10 ... P Fessey 10

7-2 Sunny Chief, 9-2 Turtle, 11-2 The Last Word, 6-1 Miss Take, 8-1 Moonlit Water, Netherhall, 12-1 Lost Spirit, Jane Ann, Crash Call Lady, 14-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
L Cumani	4	15	26.7	K Darley	38	216	17.6
Sir M Prescott	8	31	25.8	R Ffrench	3	20	15.0
R Barr	3	19	15.8	S Sanders	3	22	13.6
T Barron	9	66	13.6	C Lowther	4	31	12.9
J Eyre	14	117	12.0	J Carroll	17	138	12.3

☐ Barry Fenton was yesterday banned for ten days for his use of the whip when winning the Whitbread Gold Cup on Eulogy at Sandown last Saturday. He was suspended under the rule which came into force on March 1 to cover major races, and will be out on days when jump racing take places between May 1-13.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

BRIGHTON: TRAINERS: J Dunlop, 11 winners from 35 runners, 31.4%; W Muir, 12 from 56, 21.4%; K Ivory, 9 from 48, 18.8%; J Toller, 4 from 23, 17.4%; M Bell, 6 from 35, 17.1%; R Hannon, 34 from 207, 16.4%; C Brittain, 6 from 38, 15.8%. **JOCKEYS:** R Hills, 3 winners from 11 rides, 27.3%; N Pollard, 8 from 33, 24.2%; T Quinn, 38 from 162, 23.5%; Pat Eddery, 7 from 30, 23.3%; R Brisland, 4 from 18, 22.2%; M Roberts, 10 from 53, 18.9%; Dane O'Neill, 30 from 181, 16.6%.

WOLVERHAMPTON: TRAINERS: M Bell, 20 winners from 79 runners, 25.3%; Sir M Prescott, 28 from 118, 23.7%; M Johnston, 47 from 252, 18.7%; B Murray, 3 from 17, 17.6%; P Felgate, 8 from 48, 16.7%; N Callaghan, 3 from 19, 15.8%; J Eyre, 26 from 181, 14.4%. **JOCKEYS:** W Ryan, 12 winners from 71 rides, 16.9%; J Egan, 23 from 155, 14.8%; J Tate, 16 from 108, 14.8%; D Sweeney, 19 from 131, 14.5%; G Duffield, 29 from 208, 13.9%; T McLaughlin, 26 from 193, 13.5%.

CRICKET

Lewis gives further reminder of quality

By Mark Baldwin

LEICESTER (first day of four: Lancashire won toss): Leicestershire have scored 337 for nine wickets against Lancashire

AROUND the country, attention is centred, understandably, on players earmarked for World Cup action. At Grace Road yesterday, for instance, Ian Austin provoked more than a few murmurings by pulling out of the meeting between the champions and runners-up of last season.

A potentially heavyweight PPP county championship contest was also scaled down somewhat by the absence from the Lancashire team of Fairbrother, another member of the England World Cup squad. Martin and Atherton. Fairbrother was rested and Austin has a thigh muscle strain.

In the circumstances, the likes of Darren Maddy and Chris Lewis had to fight hard to be noticed. But, in the end, noticed they were. Form and fitness seemed to be commodities in worryingly short supply in the England camp, but Austin moved to calm fears that his injury might jeopardise his involvement in the World Cup.

He has played only one CGU National League match this season, plus his three appearances in Sharjah, since having an operation on his left knee during the winter, but Austin said: "I don't think there is a serious problem. I have had some improvement in the thigh but not enough to play in a four-day game. As far as I am concerned I will be on schedule for the World Cup."

The absence of Austin and Martin, also injured, allowed Smethurst, 22, to make his second championship appearance and he picked up the wicket of Smith after Crawley, the Lancashire captain, had, perhaps defensively, chosen to bowl first. It was Richard Green, however, who caught the eye in an inexperienced attack; he took four top-order wickets and a smart return catch to end Maddy's innings.

Maddy, sixth out, scored 86 and has come back strongly from shabby treatment by the England selectors just under a year ago. The parallels with the start of the 1998 season are already apparent. Maddy, returning then as now from a successful winter A tour, began in good form and was picked for the Texaco Trophy against South Africa with a Test debut widely predicted to follow.

It never happened. He made one run in his only innings in two Texaco matches and Maddy — his confidence clearly undermined — eventually struggled to a pitiful 512 championship runs from 23 innings, one of those being a 162, against Durham.

Yesterday, however, he batted with great assurance against the moving ball and now, with two full months before the Test series against New Zealand, has plenty of opportunity to put the painful memories behind him.

Lewis would be the choice of many people as a World Cup all-rounder ahead of the likes of Austin, including, by some accounts, Alec Stewart. Lewis made 139 a fortnight ago when Leicestershire launched the defence of their title by thrashing Essex and yesterday an unbeaten 77 represented another massive contribution in the context of this game.

First with Nixon and then in a last-wicket stand of 72 with Brimson, Lewis denied Lancashire tangible reward for a spirited deployment of their limited resources. Batting is not likely to be straightforward against Leicestershire's pace attack and Chilton may rue dropping Lewis, on 30, off Green.


Kendall pulls powerfully towards the boundary as Speight, the wicketkeeper, looks on. Photograph: Owen Humphreys

Kendall in mint condition

By Richard Hobson

CHESTER-LE-STREET (first day of four: Hampshire won toss): Hampshire have scored 344 for eight wickets against Durham

THERE is much wisdom in the adage that practice makes perfect, but Will Kendall will testify that rest, too, has a role in the quest to improve. A decision to leave his bat untouched from the end of last season until the beginning of March is beginning to appear inspired.

Last week, Kendall scored 93 for Hampshire against Kent, when a leading edge resulted in Martin McCague accepting a return catch. He was entitled to feel disappointed with his dismissal yesterday, for attempting to work John Wood off his pads carried a certain resemblance, but this time a career-best score in the county championship of 105 ensured that satisfaction soon replaced any initial frustration.

With Adrian Aymes and Derek Kenway contributing half-centuries and Dimitri Mascarenhas scoring 44 to secure the innings, Hampshire enjoyed much the better of a first day played, for the most part, in what older spectators were able to identify as sunshine. They are the only side yet to record a first-class victory against Durham, but that might change before the weekend is over.

Having withstood a searching examination of his back-foot technique against the pace of Harmison, on a generally slow pitch, Kendall accumulated his runs phlegmatically as a quartet of Durham seamers failed to bowl with the consistency that Boon, the captain, would have required. It said much that soon after lunch he should turn to the off-spin of Gough, who bowled 24 overs in eight matches last season.

Durham had began constructively. Lewis, at short leg, reacted swiftly to remove Stephenson and White in the first hour and Wood, maintaining a length to assist swing, then forced an outside edge from Smith, which Betts held alertly at third slip. Yet having restricted Hampshire to 70 for three, they allowed Kendall and Aymes to reverse the situation with a partnership of 142 in 40 overs.

Aymes, who has established himself at No 5, played neatly between mid-on and mid-off, while Kendall remained unhurried, knowing that the "four ball" was never far away. His fifty arrived after 122 minutes with five fours and he breached the boundary on nine further occasions in progressing to three figures.

Aymes drove a half-volley back to Wood and as Kendall, after 211 minutes, provided Speight with a catch, the bowler could reflect upon belated reward for the occasions when he beat the outside edge in a far better first spell. Kenway, who is one run away from equalling his career-best of 57 today, and Mascarenhas then put on 83 to ensure that the efforts of the top order would not go to waste.

SCOREBOARD FROM CHESTER-LE-STREET

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings

G W White c Lewis b Harmison 25
J P Stephenson c Lewis b Brown 7
W S Kendall c Speight b Wood 105
*R A Smith c Betts b Wood 10
†A N Aymes c and b Wood 51
D A Kenway not out 56
A D Mascarenhas b Collingwood 44
S D Udal run out 1
A C Morris c Collingwood b Brown 2
N A M McLean not out 4
Extras (b 2, lb 13, nb 24) 39
Total (8 wkts, 105 overs) 344
S J Renshaw to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-39, 3-70, 4-212, 5-239, 6-322, 7-335, 8-340.

BOWLING: Brown 24-6-64-2; Betts 21-6-54-0; Harmison 18-2-83-1; Wood 23-4-76-3; Gough 7-2-23-0; Collingwood 12-2-29-1.

DURHAM: J J B Lewis, M A Gough, J E Morris, J A Daley, *D C Boon, P D Collingwood, †M P Speight, M M Betts, J Wood, S J E Brown, S J Harmison.

Bonus points: Durham 3 Hampshire 3.

Umpires: N A Mallender and K E Palmer.

Derbyshire lose their grip after Slater sparkles

By Jack Bailey

CANTERBURY (first day of four: Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 31 runs ahead of Kent

THE first championship match of the season at Canterbury had everything that a Kent supporter could ask for, except a more encouraging performance from their team. There were blue skies, a blameless pitch and, if you could keep out of a keen wind, ideal conditions for watching Kent build a useful score after being sent into bat by Dominic Cork.

But Kent's batting failed dismally, with the notable exception of Matthew Walker, 2llb lighter than he was last season and looking the better for it in every way. After they had been bowled out for 141, they were put to the sword by Michael Slater and bludgeoned by Adrian Rollins.

Prospects for Kent looked bleak when, after a century partnership between these two, Derbyshire passed the Kent total with eight wickets in hand. If ever a team had a match by the scruff of the neck at 5pm on the first day of a four-day match, it was Derbyshire yesterday.

The picture changed somewhat, though, as Dean Headley recovered from a severe mauling at the hands of Slater and Rollins — his first spell of six overs cost him 47 runs — to snap up two quick wickets in a fiery spell that cost 16. Mark Ealham took two more as Derbyshire lost five wickets for 26 runs and Kent had forced their way back into the game.

Slater's sparkling innings had been ended by a sharp catch at mid-off after he had made 65 out of 131 from 77 balls. Bearing in mind that his first championship half-century last season was not until August, he was off to a roaring start. If this sort of form, which brought him eight fours and a couple of sure, clean sixes, continues, Derbyshire's potential will be greatly enhanced.

Despite their evening collapse, there are, on this evidence, several other reasons why Derbyshire could be up there with the best of them by the end of the season. Their off-the-field troubles seem to be behind them. Perhaps Colin Wells, their new coach, has influenced their general approach in the field. Here it was keen, competent and aggressive.

The quicker bowlers kept the ball up to the bat, giving it a chance to swing. None more so than Kevin Dean. His dismissals of Fulton, Key and Wells were classics of their kind: straight balls leaving the batsmen, followed by the late, dipping inswinger of full length. The three-card trick was never more ably demonstrated. With DeFreitas and Cork in support, Kent were reduced to 70 for seven.

In spite of Walker's fine, restrained innings, which brought him 53 in nearly three hours and helped double the score for the last three wickets, Kent were in trouble. Andrew Symonds was given his county cap in the tea interval, but there was little else for Kent to cheer as Slater and Rollins took them apart.

Derbyshire's century opening stand was achieved at twice the pace of Kent's own milestone, but after Weston was unfortunately run out, it was Derbyshire who were reined in before bad light intervened with four overs left.

Johnson in renaissance

By Pat Gibson

TRENT BRIDGE (first day of four; Worcestershire won toss): Nottinghamshire have scored 377 for five wickets against Worcestershire

PAUL JOHNSON must be the best batsman of his generation never to have played for the England senior team. He did not look it last season when he was buckling under the burden of captaining Nottinghamshire, but he was back to his best yesterday with a century that was as warming to the Trent Bridge faithful as the long overdue sunshine.

It was an early return on Nottinghamshire's initiative in bringing back Clive Rice, who led them to two county championships in the Eighties, as manager. The first thing that Johnson did on hearing the news was to sign a new contract. The second thing he did was to get himself fit, knowing how Rice would make him suffer if he was not.

As a result, he looked born again as he went within two runs of scoring 100 between lunch and tea with his own pugnacious brand of strokeplay. Johnson's on-drives are better described as straight lefts, his cuts as forearm jabs and his pulls as uppercuts.

Jason Gallian also asserted himself by passing 50 for the first time in 13 championship innings since taking over the captaincy last July and Chris Read, the England A wicketkeeper, put on a nice little exhibition of batting in front of David Graveney, the chairman of selectors.


Johnson: return to form

It all added up to maximum batting points for a side which performed that feat only once last summer. What is more, they did it on a grassy pitch.

There was bounce and movement, but unfortunately for Worcestershire, once Liptrot had added to his five wickets against Surrey last week by having Robinson caught at third slip in his first over, they could not put the ball in the right place often enough.

Afzaal found it hard, making only 12 in the best part of two hours before Leatherdale had him caught behind, but Gallian was beginning to find some form with 82 in a little more than three hours, including 16 fours, when Lampitt claimed him leg-before.

Then there was Johnson, reviving memories of how he was rated ahead of Thorpe and Hussain on the 1991-92 A tour of the West Indies, and finally Read, more than justifying his promotion to No 6.

Smith takes dashing lead

By Thrasy Petropoulos

CHELMSFORD (first day of four; Essex won toss): Essex, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 256 runs behind Warwickshire

THE tale has become a familiar one for Essex. Just as they did against Leicestershire, in their first championship match of the season, for a while they lived with, even dominated, Warwickshire yesterday. It was tempting to believe that the corner had been turned and a run of championship defeats that stretches to seven matches could be arrested.

With the considerable advantage of having won the toss, Essex found little resistance in reducing Warwickshire to 84 for six by lunch on a two-paced pitch, with all six top-order batsmen dismissed. They then spent the next 59 overs taking the remaining four wickets while Warwickshire recovered to 271.

The change in fortunes after lunch could not have been more striking. Three off-side boundaries from solid back-foot strokes from Neil Smith, the Warwickshire captain, saw Mark Ilott out of the attack. Jamie Grove, his replacement, was promptly clattered for three fours in his first over. In the space of only 44 balls, Smith had reached a half-century that had altered the direction and tempo of the day.

His innings may have subsequently stagnated, as he took 60 balls over his next 19 runs before being bowled by Ilott, but with the precedent set, Ashley Giles rarely looked troubled in scoring 30, Tim Munton contributed 24 at No 10, and Graeme Welch weighed in with an unbeaten 48.


Smith: positive response

It was a far cry from the start when Ilott and Ashley Cowan did much as they pleased with the new ball. Most of the first hour was spent with Warwickshire batsmen pushing forward at thin air, and sure enough Ilott finished with three wickets and Cowan, Irani and Grayson on two apiece — in Grayson's case the last two of the innings — but not before batting conditions were made to appear a different proposition.

The pitch may have lost much of its life as the day wore on, but Essex were unable to survive the eight overs that they were asked to negotiate before the close, losing Paul Prichard leg-before playing back to Ed Giddins.

Bailey drops anchor to thwart Surrey

By Ivo Tennant

NORTHAMPTON (first day of four; Northamptonshire won toss): Surrey, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 176 runs behind Northamptonshire

SURREY will repine over not having bowled out Northamptonshire for rather less than 248. Rob Bailey and Paul Taylor, who make for an unlikely pairing, put on 117 in 34 overs for the eighth wicket through batting that was about as contrasting as could be. One came up with gutsy defence and the other hit the ball everywhere. It was highly effective.

Had Surrey bowled a little more accurately, they might well have been batting by early afternoon. There was much life in the pitch, especially for anyone coming in from the Football Ground end.

Northamptonshire were 91 for seven at one stage. Bicknell bowled Hayden as he drove at a ball of fullish length, and had Loye held at mid-wicket, mistiming a pull. Warren was run out and, when Butcher brought himself on, he caught and bowled Penberthy and then had Swann taken driving at an away swinger.

Bailey, though, remains an unflinching competitor and, after taking ten overs to get off the mark, held the innings together. He and Taylor, whose 71 was not far off the best score of his career, thoroughly irked their opponents.

By the time Bailey was leg-before to Bicknell for 75, he was only 27 runs short of 20,000 in first-class cricket. He frustrated Tudor to the extent that he was spoken to for short-pitched bowling. Surrey, although they lost Ward to a vicious ball from Malcolm, and Shahid, retired hurt, ended the more content.

Patience pays for Alleyne

By Geoffrey Dean

BRISTOL (first day of four; Middlesex won toss): Gloucestershire have scored 246 for seven wickets against Middlesex

THE smart new Jessop Stand at Nevil Road glimmered in the sunshine and was perhaps the brightest adornment on a day that was, by necessity, an attritional one because of a slow, flat pitch devoid of much bounce and in use for the first time for a first-class match.

The plan had been to use another pitch for Bristol's first match of the season. But it proved too wet, and this one, due to have been played on in a second-team match last week, was appreciably drier.

Middlesex would have expected much more assistance than they received. Despite the pitch's green hue, hardly a ball seamed before lunch. Nor was there any swing to speak of for Middlesex's promising young outswing bowler, Simon Cook, making his debut at the age of 22.

Cook was on the staff last year but because of persistent shin soreness, spent much of his time acting as video cameraman for John Buchanan, the then coach. Cook, 6ft 4in, is highly rated by Mike Gatting, who says that he hits the seam a lot, a useful attribute for bowlers of his type who are twice as valuable if they cut the ball back regularly. That was how Cook took his maiden first-class wicket, in his second over, when Hancock got an inside edge on to a pad and was taken at short leg.

Cook bowled his opening spell up the hill into a strong wind. Hewitt, who replaced him, bowled a single over into it before asking Ramprakash if he could come downwind. That explained both Tufnell's early introduction and why he reeled off as many as 36 overs, in which he was notably economical.

Only Hewson tried to get after him and when he fell, giving him the charge, the rest of the Gloucestershire batsmen decided to remain in the crease. Tufnell, finding himself cast as stock bowler, did the job superbly and was rewarded with a second wicket when Windows gloved an attempted sweep.

Both batting and bowling on this surface required a lot of discipline and it was hardly a surprise that it was the experienced players on each side who provided it. Barnett, defending stoutly and driving sweetly square on the off side, reached a maiden fifty for his new county before Fraser nipped one back to bowl him off the inside edge.

Alleyne's concentration and commitment were admirable as he ground out a valuable 76 in 74 overs, although he would have rued his failure to keep down a full-blooded cut off Shah's occasional medium-pace. His dismissal gave Middlesex the advantage, although they could not shift the obdurate Russell.

Joy for Croft proves to be short-lived

By John Stern

CARDIFF (first day of four; Sussex won toss): Glamorgan, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 183 runs behind Sussex

EVEN if he hits the winning runs in the World Cup final, Robert Croft will not look more excited than he did yesterday when he had Tony Cottey, the Sussex batsman returning to his former county for the first time, caught at silly point. It was the first ball that Croft had bowled to Cottey, who had been best man at his wedding and was his room-mate for nine seasons.

Delight turned to frustration for Croft and his colleagues as Glamorgan were held up by Shaun Humphries, the Sussex wicketkeeper, who made his second first-class fifty, and Umer Rashid. They put on 71 for the ninth wicket in a gritty stand.

When Sussex were bowled out for 222, the broadest Welsh grin belonged to Simon Jones, 20, son of Jeff, the former Glamorgan and England left-arm seamer. Jones, playing in his fourth county championship match, took career-best figures of five for 31, including the last three wickets. A tall right-arm bowler, Jones produced balls to hurry the Sussex batsmen but this pitch, although uneven in bounce, is too slow to offer Jones and his ilk the chance to show off.

The Sussex top order failed to gauge the pace of the pitch, although Adams, the Sussex captain, was in vicious form, hitting Croft for two straight sixes. However, he could not resist further extravagance and was caught brilliantly by Maynard at second slip for 41.

Glamorgan's reply began poorly, James and Dale departing before the close.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

PPP county championship

Essex v Warwickshire

CHELMSFORD (first day of four: Essex won toss): Essex, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 256 runs behind Warwickshire

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings
N V Knight c Law b Cowan 2
M A Wagh lbw b Ilott 3
D L Hemp lbw b Grove 30
T L Penney c Hussain b Irani 19
† T Frost c Hyam b Irani 11
D R Brown c Grayson b Ilott 8
*N M K Smith b Ilott 69
A F Giles c Law b Cowan 30
G Welch not out 48
T A Munton c Such b Grayson 24
E S H Giddins b Grayson 6
Extras (b 6, lb 11, nb 4) 21
Total (93.5 overs) 271
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-6, 3-47, 4-71, 5-76, 6-84, 7-171, 8-202, 9-261.
BOWLING: Cowan 18-4-60-2; Ilott 21-8-43-3; Grove 13-3-59-1; Irani 17-2-40-2; Such 17-2-37-0; Grayson 7.5-3-15-2.

ESSEX: First Innings
P J Prichard lbw b Giddins 10
D D J Robinson not out 2
M C Ilott not out 1
Extras (nb 2) 2
Total (1 wkt, 8 overs) 15
*N Hussain, S G Law, R C Irani, A P Grayson, † B J Hyam, A P Cowan, J O Grove and P M Such to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12.
BOWLING: Giddins 4-1-7-1; Welch 4-2-8-0.
Umpires: J C Balderstone and D R Shepherd.

Glamorgan v Sussex

CARDIFF (first day of four: Sussex won toss): Glamorgan, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 183 runs behind Sussex

SUSSEX: First Innings
R R Montgomerie c Dale b Jones 28
M T E Peirce lbw b Dale 13
*C J Adams c Maynard b Thomas 41
M J Di Venuto c Croft b Jones 12
P A Cottey c Evans b Croft 6
R K Rao c Maynard b Thomas 8
R S C Martin-Jenkins lbw b Thomas 0
†S Humphries c Thomas b Jones 57
R J Kirtley c Shaw b Jones 4
U B A Rashid b Jones 43
M A Robinson not out 0
Extras (b 3, lb 3, nb 4) 10
Total (88.3 overs) 222
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-42, 2-44, 3-61, 4-96, 5-104, 6-104, 7-119, 8-147, 9-218.
BOWLING: Watkin 18-5-43-0; Thomas 18-4-54-3; Dale 10-3-40-1; Jones 13.3-3-31-5; Croft 19-7-35-1; Cosker 10-1-13-0.

GLAMORGAN: First Innings
S P James c Peirce b Kirtley 14
A W Evans not out 10
A Dale lbw b Robinson 12
D A Cosker not out 0
Extras (lb 1, nb 2) 3
Total (2 wkts, 13 overs) 39
*M P Maynard, K Newell, R D B Croft, †A D Shaw, S D Thomas, S L Watkin and S P Jones to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-38.
BOWLING: Kirtley 5-0-19-1; Martin-Jenkins 4-0-13-0; Rashid 2-1-4-0; Robinson 2-1-2-1.
Umpires: J H Hampshire and J H Harris.

Gloucestershire v Middlesex

BRISTOL (first day of four; Middlesex won toss): Gloucestershire have scored 246 for seven wickets against Middlesex

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings
K J Barnett b Fraser 51
T H C Hancock c Kettleborough b Cook 1
D R Hewson c Shah b Tufnell 23
*M W Alleyne c Ramprakash b Shah 76
M G N Windows c Nash b Tufnell 15
R I Dawson c Nash b Hewitt 10
J N Snape lbw b Fraser 18
†R C Russell not out 35
J Lewis not out 5
Extras (b 1, lb 7, nb 4) 12
Total (7 wkts, 110 overs) 246
J M M Averis and A M Smith to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-56, 3-91, 4-120, 5-131, 6-181, 7-230.
BOWLING: Fraser 27-13-36-2; Cook 13-2-51-1; Hewitt 17-2-56-1; Tufnell 36-8-55-2; Weekes 10-4-16-0; Shah 7-2-14-1.
MIDDLESEX: M A Roseberry, J L Langer, *M R Ramprakash, R A Kettleborough, O A Shah, P N Weekes, †D C Nash, J P Hewitt, S J Cook, A R C Fraser, P C R Tufnell.
Umpires: D J Constant and M J Harris.

Kent v Derbyshire

CANTERBURY (first day of four: Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 31 runs ahead of Kent

KENT: First Innings
D P Fulton lbw b Dean 4
R W T Key lbw b Dean 11
A P Wells lbw b Dean 11
M J Walker c Cork b Smith 53
A Symonds c Krikken b DeFreitas 8
M A Ealham c Krikken b DeFreitas 2
*M V Fleming c Cassar b DeFreitas 4
†S A Marsh b Dean 7
D W Headley c Cassar b Cork 10
M M Patel lbw b Cork 6
M J McCague not out 11
Extras (lb 10, nb 4) 14
Total (49 overs) 141
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-20, 3-27, 4-43, 5-55, 6-59, 7-70, 8-94, 9-112.
BOWLING: DeFreitas 17-3-48-3; Dean 17-5-34-4; Cork 11-1-34-2; Smith 4-1-15-1.

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings
M J Slater c Fleming b Symonds 65
A S Rollins c Key b Headley 71
R M S Weston run out 2
S P Titchard c Fulton b Ealham 4
M E Cassar lbw b Headley 0
*D G Cork not out 7
P A J DeFreitas c Fleming b Ealham 2
†K M Krikken not out 2
Extras (lb 3, w 2, nb 14) 19
Total (6 wkts, 48.4 overs) 172
P Aldred, T M Smith and K J Dean to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-131, 2-137, 3-153, 4-155, 5-157, 6-159.
BOWLING: McCague 2.4-0-12-0; Headley 14-1-63-2; Ealham 12-3-33-2; Patel 4-1-16-0; Fleming 9-3-19-0; Symonds 7-0-26-1.
Umpires: J W Holder and R Palmer.

Leicestershire v Lancashire

LEICESTER (first day of four; Lancashire won toss): Leicestershire have scored 337 for nine wickets against Lancashire

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings
V J Wells c Hegg b Green 44
D L Maddy c and b Green 86
I J Sutcliffe b Green 6
B F Smith c Flintoff b Smethurst 17
*J J Whitaker c Hegg b Chapple 14
A Habib c Flintoff b Green 12
†P A Nixon lbw b Chapple 25
C C Lewis not out 77
M S Kasprowicz lbw b Chapple 5
A D Mullally c Lloyd b Chapple 0
M T Brimson not out 22
Extras (b 9, lb 10, w 6, nb 4) 29
Total (9 wkts, 104 overs) 337
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-74, 2-82, 3-115, 4-146, 5-174, 6-195, 7-243, 8-255, 9-265.
BOWLING: Chapple 25.5-8-72-4; Smethurst 16-3-46-1; Flintoff 13-2-48-0; Green 26-7-57-4; Schofield 13-2-53-0; Watkinson 8-1-33-0; Chilton 2-1-9-0.
LANCASHIRE: N T Wood, M J Chilton, *J P Crawley, G D Lloyd, A Flintoff, †W K Hegg, M Watkinson, C P Schofield, G Chapple, R J Green, M P Smethurst.
Umpires: K J Lyons and A Clarkson.

Northamptonshire v Surrey

NORTHAMPTON (first day of four: Northants won toss): Surrey, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 176 runs behind Northants

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings
R J Bailey lbw b Bicknell 75
*M L Hayden b Bicknell 11
M B Loye c Shahid b Bicknell 1
R J Warren run out 0
D J G Sales c Brown b Tudor 16
A L Penberthy c and b Butcher 3
G P Swann c Batty b Butcher 0
†D Ripley c Batty b Bicknell 13
J P Taylor lbw b Salisbury 71
D Follett c B C Hollioake b Tudor 19
D E Malcolm not out 0
Extras (lb 11, w 6, nb 22) 39
Total (83.1 overs) 248
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-25, 2-29, 3-29, 4-57, 5-60, 6-62, 7-91, 8-208, 9-248.
BOWLING: Bicknell 21-8-48-4; Tudor 19-6-59-2; B C Hollioake 12-2-53-0; Butcher 11-3-19-2; Salisbury 14.1-3-39-1; A J Hollioake 6-1-19-0.

SURREY: First Innings
*M A Butcher not out 36
I J Ward c Swann b Malcolm 7
N Shahid retired hurt 0
G P Thorpe not out 20
Extras (b 4, lb 3, nb 2) 9
Total (1 wkt, 18 overs) 72
A D Brown, A J Hollioake, B C Hollioake, †J N Batty, A J Tudor, M P Bicknell and I D K Salisbury to bat.
FALL OF WICKET: 1-27.
BOWLING: Malcolm 7-2-20-1; Taylor 4-1-21-0; Follett 5-0-20-0; Swann 2-1-4-0.
Umpires: A A Jones and G Sharp.

Notts v Worcestershire

TRENT BRIDGE (first day of four; Worcestershire won toss): Nottinghamshire have scored 377 for six wickets against Worcestershire

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings
U Afzaal c Rhodes b Leatherdale 12
R T Robinson c Lampitt b Liptrot 0
*J E R Gallian lbw b Lampitt 82
P Johnson c Hick b Illingworth 126
N A Gie lbw b Lampitt 35
†C M W Read not out 41
V C Drakes c Hick b Sheriyar 26
P J Franks not out 1
Extras (b 8, lb 18, w 2, nb 25) 53
Total (6 wkts, 104 overs) 377
M N Bowen, A G Wharf and R D Stemp to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-75, 3-168, 4-277, 5-311, 6-370.
BOWLING: Sheriyar 19-2-93-1; Liptrot 19-5-82-1; Haynes 11-3-29-0; Lampitt 21-4-56-2; Leatherdale 11-0-43-1; Illingworth 21-3-60-1; Solanki 2-0-19-0.
WORCESTERSHIRE: P R Pollard, W P C Weston, G A Hick, V S Solanki, D A Leatherdale, G R Haynes, *†S J Rhodes, S R Lampitt, R K Illingworth, A Sheriyar, C G Liptrot.
Umpires: B Dudleston and R A White.

IN BRIEF

Referees prepare to be wired for sound

IN BRIEF

Referees prepare to be wired for sound

■ THE FA Carling Premiership is on the verge of making referees and their assistants use radio communications from next season. The move, which has been proposed by Philip Don, the FA Premier League referees' officer, has been given a positive response by club chairmen, who plan also to discuss another of Don's brainchilds — the use of bleeping devices in a bid to end ball-over-the-line controversies.
The initial plan is for referees to be put in constant contact with their assistants on the line via the use of headsets with radio microphones built in. All three officials will wear the devices. The aim is to enable referees to reach speedier decisions and avoid the need for touchline consultations that often inflame the mood of players and fans.

■ Lawrie McMenemy is likely to keep his job as manager of Northern Ireland, for the time being at least, despite the country's ignominious 1-1 draw with Canada in Belfast on Tuesday night. There has been widespread criticism of McMenemy since the match, but he and his coaching staff had been assured previously by Jim Boyce, president of the Irish Football Association, that their positions remain secure at least until after their final Euro 2000 match in Finland this October.

■ Nicolas Anelka, the Arsenal striker, has apologised to the Professional Footballers' Association for not appearing at their annual awards ceremony in London on Sunday, when the 20-year-old France international was voted Young Player of the Year. Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, had to accept the award on his behalf.

■ Morocco has officially announced its bid to host the World Cup finals in 2006. England, Germany and South Africa are considered to be the strongest candidates and the winner will be declared next March.

■ West Ham United are to sell Javier Margas, their Chile defender. Margas, who was signed from Universidad Catolica for £2 million, suffered a knee injury early in his West Ham career and flew home to Chile for treatment amid rumours that his family were homesick. The big centre half has not returned and his West Ham career appears to be over after starting just three Premiership games.

FOOTBALL: WATFORD DEFENDER MAY FACE LEGAL ACTION AFTER OPPONENT SUFFERS DOUBLE FRACTURE

Vale consider suing over tackle

By Stephen Wood

PORT VALE, the Nationwide League first division club, said yesterday that they were considering taking legal action over the tackle that left Stewart Talbot, their defender, with a double fracture of his right leg.

Talbot, 25, suffered the injury after a challenge by Paul Robinson, of Watford, in their match at Vale Park on Tuesday night. Graham Taylor, the Watford manager, admitted that the tackle was "reckless and foolish" and Bill Bell, the Vale chairman, said yesterday: "We could sue the player personally, because the tackle on Talbot could threaten his livelihood and, as a club, it will not have helped our cause."

Talbot underwent surgery yesterday and the club will talk to him to discover his views on the issue. Regardless of whether Vale pursue legal action, they have lodged an official complaint with the Football Association about George Cain, the match referee.

In a strictly footballing sense, the repercussions of their 2-1 defeat could also hurt Vale. Brian Horton, the manager, believed that the game paled into insignificance after Talbot was carried off — it certainly only served to increase the importance of their remaining two fixtures. Vale slipped to 21st position, above the relegation zone by virtue of the fact that they have scored more goals than Bury.

After Crewe Alexandra's win over Bristol City, the bottom club, on the same night, four teams are on 44 points. The denouement to the season is likely to be a fractious one.


Gradi has other priorities for Crewe Alexandra other than their fight to avoid relegation from the first division

Vale meet Queens Park Rangers, the club one place above them, on Saturday, while Bury await at Gigg Lane on the final day of the campaign.

The attempts of Oxford United and Bristol City to stay up appear forlorn. Oxford must travel to Bradford City this weekend, with the Yorkshire club striving for the victory that would enhance their chance of earning automatic promotion to the FA Carling Premiership. If three of the four clubs above them win at the weekend, defeats for Oxford and Bristol City will see them relegated.

While those clubs are panicking, it is a testament to Dario Gradi, the Crewe manager, that his club are sitting relatively pretty in nineteenth position. It is the first time that Crewe have been out of the bottom four since October 17 and, with matches against Portsmouth and Huddersfield Town to come, Crewe are genuinely optimistic that they will complete their escape.

Gradi, who has been manager at Gresty Road for nearly 16 years, is still considering the bigger picture. "I would rather that the new stand is built than us stay up," he said. "If we can get more people into the ground, the finances will improve and we will have a better chance of keeping our best players." He did add, though, that it would be "nice" if Crewe could remain in the first division.

Bidding to join them are Wigan Athletic, who must cope with a daunting schedule of five games in 11 days if they are to qualify for the second division play-offs, although the fact that the pitch at Springfield Park caused so many postponements during the winter means that they cannot complain too much.

Tonight, Wigan travel to Northampton Town, who are battling relegation. Thereafter, Wigan must play again on Saturday, Bank Holiday Monday, next Wednesday and the final day of the season, May 9. By that time, they hope to have made up the six-point gap that separates them from Bournemouth, the team at present occupying the final play-off place.

Bournemouth did themselves no favours by losing to Colchester United on Tuesday night while Wigan were beating Lincoln City. "Amateurish," Mel Machin, the Bournemouth manager, said of his team's performance. "Professional," was the way that Ray Mathias, the Wigan manager, described his players' attitude to the situation facing them.

"To collect enough points when you are playing almost every other day is difficult," Mathias said, "but I keep telling the players that we are in a great situation. We have our destiny in our own hands and if we keep playing like we have been doing, there is no reason why we cannot be in the first division next year."

Cambridge United secured promotion from the third division with a 2-0 victory away to Rochdale on Tuesday, although Cardiff City and Brentford are still able to prevent them from winning the championship. "Promotion is not enough for me and it should not be enough for the players, either," Roy McFarland, the Cambridge manager, said yesterday. "We are hellbent on going up as champions."

Cole heads parade of prospective stars of the future

By Nick Szczepanik

THE final of The Times FA Youth Cup will be between Coventry City and West Ham United, clubs who last won the competition in the 1980s, although West Ham, the 1981 winners, were beaten finalists as recently as 1996, when they lost 4-1 on aggregate to Liverpool.

For Coventry City, a final against a London-based team will evoke memories of 1987, when they overcame Charlton Athletic only days before the first team won the FA Cup at Wembley. On Tuesday, leading Newcastle United 4-0 after the first leg of the semi-final at St James' Park, they recovered from a nervy start to go through 5-2 on aggregate.

The goal that killed off Newcastle's comeback was scored by Chukki Eribenne but the



Coventry player who has attracted most attention is Gary McSheffrey, 16, who became the youngest first-team player in the club's history when appearing as substitute at Villa Park. He scored a hat-trick at Newcastle and, although he did not score in the second leg, his speed, control and audacity gave the opposing defenders an uncomfortable evening.

McSheffrey is truly a local product, for his family home is no more than a long goal kick from Highfield Road. West Ham, in contrast, have two graduates from their academies in Australia, Richard Garcia and Michael Ferrante.

Not that the East London club is neglecting its own back yard. Bertie Brayley, born in Essex, is capable of making as well as scoring goals, while alongside Ferrante in midfield is the jewel in the Upton Park crown, Joe Cole, now with several FA Carling Premiership appearances under his belt.

West Ham, who play a fluid 3-5-2 formation, have been mightily impressive at home in the past two rounds, overrunning Arsenal and putting three goals past Everton, the holders.

For the players, the pressures of an expectant home crowd — not to mention live television coverage — present new challenges, but ones that they will have to surmount if the final next month is to be the first of many big occasions.

Britain could bid for Olympic football gold

John Goodbody on new moves to restore a combined home nations team in time for the 2004 Games


Havelange: letter of assurance over World Cup status

GREAT Britain could field a football team in the Olympic Games for the first time since 1960. The British Olympic Association (BOA) said yesterday that it was having talks with the Football Association in an attempt to field a combined team from the four home nations in 2004.

The news came as Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport, reiterated his call for a united Britain team to compete in both the Olympics and the World Cup. He said that this would ensure victory in the tournaments.

Banks said: "Sepp Blatter, the Fifa president, is talking about the possibility of a British team in the Games and I would love to see that happen. But if we enter a team for the Olympics, we must find a way round the fact that we have four home countries."

Simon Clegg, the BOA chief executive, confirmed that there had been meetings with the FA "with a view to moving this forward". He added that there was a letter carrying an assurance from João Havelange, the former Fifa president, and Blatter; then the secretary-general of the governing body of world football, assuring the FA that if there were a Great Britain team at the Games it would not compromise the status of the individual nations at the World Cup.

Clegg said: "We believe that young footballers are being deprived of the chance of competing in the world's greatest sports festival. What people in this country do not realise is that for other nations, football is a major sport in the Games. In 1996 there were huge crowds for the tournament and the United States is not a traditional football country."

The Olympic football event was first staged in 1900, when Great Britain, represented by Upton Park FC, beat France for the gold medals. However, as early as the 1920s, problems occurred over the definition of amateurism, Britain withdrawing because of a dispute over broken-time payments.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the tournaments were dominated by the state-funded communist nations, who usually fielded their World Cup teams. These included the great Hungary side that humiliated England 6-3 at Wembley in 1953 and then 7-1 in Budapest in 1954 and first attracted international attention when they won the Olympic title in 1952.

In recent years, Fifa has agreed to restrict teams to choosing players who are aged under 23, with the exception of three individuals. Recently there have been suggestions that, in future, five over-age players might be allowed to take part.

In a newspaper interview, Banks was quoted as saying of the World Cup: "Scotland is one of the great football nations and have a fabulous qualifying record. But they have never got past the first round and, if you think about them in English terms, they are the West Ham of world football — they never quite perform to their full potential.

"No one can argue that Scottish football at its best is some of the finest in the world. But Scotland never make it past the group stage and England consistently fail to find that extra push in the final stages. As Britain they would win it."

However, the Scottish FA (SFA) immediately rejected Banks's call for a united Britain team. Jack McGinn, the SFA president, said: "Mr Banks is entitled to his opinion. However, there is no evidence to suggest that there is any support in the home countries for a Great Britain team."

An FA spokesman said: "This is a concept that has been raised before but we do not see any prospect of it because the supporters value the identity of their individual countries too much."

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Baltimore 8 Kansas City 4, Minnesota 6 Boston 5, Texas 6 New York Yankees 7, Anaheim 1 Toronto 10, Oakland 5 Cleveland 8; Seattle 1 Detroit 5. **Postponed:** Chicago White Sox v Tampa Bay.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Florida 8 Chicago Cubs 0; Milwaukee 2 Los Angeles 3, Montreal 2 San Francisco 3 (10inns), Philadelphia 1 Cincinnati 0 (10inns), New York Mets 2 San Diego 6, Atlanta 3 Pittsburgh 5; Houston 11 Arizona 0; St Louis 7 Colorado 5

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 85 Detroit 92; Philadelphia 80 Cleveland 71; Toronto 98 Charlotte 108; Indiana 87 Orlando 88, New Jersey 76 Miami 95, Dallas 84 Vancouver 75, Sacramento 104 San Antonio 100, Seattle 90 Utah 85.

BOWLS

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Botswana 4 Wales 8 (133-107, in Selibe-Phikwe, Wales win series 3-0)

FOOTBALL

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Croatia 0 Italy 0 (in Zagreb)
FRENCH CUP: Semi-final: Nantes 1 Nimes 0

Tuesday's late results

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Northern Ireland 1 Canada 1
UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Germany 2 Scotland 1, Ireland 0 Sweden 3
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Crewe 1 Bristol City 0 Port Vale 1 Watford 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland	44	29	12	3	88	27	99
Bradford	44	25	8	11	79	45	83
Ipswich	44	25	8	11	65	30	83
Birmingham	44	22	12	10	64	35	78
Watford	44	20	13	11	62	54	73
Bolton	44	19	15	10	75	58	72
Wolves	43	19	14	10	61	39	71
Sheff Utd	44	17	13	14	67	61	64
Norwich	44	14	17	13	60	58	59
Huddersfld	44	15	14	15	60	69	59
C Palace	44	14	15	15	56	63	57
Grimsby	43	16	9	18	39	51	57
West Brom	44	15	11	18	67	73	56
Barnsley	44	13	16	15	54	53	55
Tranmere	44	11	20	13	60	59	53
Stockport	44	12	17	15	49	54	53
Swindon	44	13	11	20	57	76	50
Portsmouth	44	11	14	19	56	68	47
Crewe	44	11	11	22	51	77	44
QPR	44	11	11	22	46	59	44
Port Vale	44	12	8	24	43	74	44
Bury	44	9	17	18	34	59	44
Oxford Utd	44	9	13	22	43	71	40
Bristol City	44	8	15	21	55	77	39

SECOND DIVISION: Bristol Rovers 3 Millwall 0; Colchester 2 Bournemouth 1, Luton 1 Chesterfield 0, Macclesfield 1 Stoke 2, Notts County 1 Wycombe 0, Wigan 3 Lincoln 1, York 1 Blackpool 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fulham	43	30	7	6	74	29	97
Walsall	43	25	8	10	58	42	83
Preston	44	22	12	10	77	46	78
Man City	44	21	15	8	63	31	78
Gillingham	44	20	14	10	70	44	74
Bournemth	44	20	12	12	62	41	72
Wigan	41	20	8	13	66	42	68
Stoke	43	20	6	17	57	58	66
Chesterfield	44	17	12	15	45	41	63
Millwall	44	17	11	16	52	56	62
Reading	44	15	13	16	52	61	58
Luton	44	15	10	19	49	58	55
Bristol R	44	12	16	16	59	51	52
Notts Co	43	14	10	19	50	58	52
Colchester	44	12	16	16	50	65	52
Wrexham	43	13	13	17	43	59	52
Blackpool	44	13	13	18	40	51	52
York	44	13	11	20	56	75	50
Burnley	43	12	14	17	51	71	50
Oldham	43	12	9	22	44	83	45
Northampton	43	10	15	18	38	52	45
Wycombe	43	11	11	21	47	55	44
Lincoln	43	11	7	25	38	72	40
Macclesfield	43	10	9	24	37	57	39

THIRD DIVISION: Darlington 2 Brentford 2; Halifax 1 Scunthorpe 0; Hartlepool 1 Leyton Orient 0; Mansfield 0 Exeter 1; Rochdale 0 Cambridge Utd 2; Rotherham 1 Barnet 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Camb Utd	43	23	11	9	76	43	80
Cardiff	44	22	13	9	60	36	79
Brentford	43	23	7	13	71	55	76
Scunthorpe	44	22	7	15	69	57	73
L Orient	44	19	14	11	66	54	71
Rotherham	44	19	12	13	76	59	69
Halifax	44	17	15	12	56	52	66
Mansfield	44	18	10	16	57	57	64
Peterboro	44	17	11	16	68	55	62
Swansea	42	16	14	12	48	44	62
Plymouth	43	17	9	17	55	47	60
Exeter	43	16	12	15	45	42	60
Darlington	43	16	11	16	63	56	59
Barnet	44	14	12	18	52	67	54
Brighton	44	16	6	22	47	63	54
Chester	44	12	17	15	54	64	53
Torquay	44	12	17	15	47	54	53
Rochdale	44	13	14	17	41	51	53
Southend	44	13	11	20	49	57	50
Shrewsbury	44	12	14	18	48	63	50
Hull	44	13	11	20	43	60	50
Hartlepool	44	13	10	21	51	64	49
Carlisle	44	10	15	19	41	52	45
Scarboro	43	12	5	26	44	75	41

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Hednesford 1 Kingstonian 2; Northwich 1 Cheltenham 0; Yeovil 0 Morecambe 1
SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Clydebank 2 Ayr 1
UEFA UNDER-16 CHAMPIONSHIP: Group B: England 2 Sweden 1
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Frickley 0 Altrincham 3; Gainsborough 3 Colwyn Bay 1. **First division:** Droylsden 2 Bradford PA 0, Great Harwood 0 Stocksbridge PS 0, Hucknall 1 Matlock 0, Radcliffe 1 Congleton 1, Witton 5 Gretna 1. **League Cup: Final:** Stalybridge 2 Guiseley 1
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Burton 2 Tamworth 1, Hastings 3 Crawley 0. **Midland division:** Bloxwich 2 Wisbech 1, Cinderford 2 Stourbridge 1, Hinckley 3 RC Warwick 0, Redditch 3 Evesham 0; Shepshed Dynamo 0 Blakenall 0. **Southern division:** Brackley 1 Ashford 2; Fisher 1 Tonbridge Angels 0. Fleet 2 Raunds 4, Folkestone Invicta 2 Margate 0. Havant and Waterlooville 5 Andover 1, Newport IoW 4 Bashley 0. **League Cup: Final:** Sutton Coldfield 2 Cambridge City 1
RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke 2 Aylesbury 1, Bishop's Stortford 0 Hendon 3, Boreham Wood 0 Chesham 0, Bromley 0 St Albans 1, Enfield 1 Sutton United 1, Heybridge Swifts 1 Aldershot 1, Slough 4 Gravesend and Northfleet 0. **First division:** Barton 1 Uxbridge 0, Bognor Regis 0 Leyton Pennant 1, Grays 1 Staines 2; Oxford City 2 Romford 2; Worthing 0 Leatherhead 1. **Second division:** Edgware 1 Wivenhoe 2; Hemel Hempstead 6 Harlow 0. Thame 2 Wokingham 1; Tooting and Mitcham 4 Hungerford 0, Windsor and Eton 1 Chalfont St Peter 2. **Third division:** Aveley 0 Lewes 2, Corinthian Casuals 2 Southall 2. Epsom and Ewell 2 Croydon 0. Flackwell Heath 6 Camberley 0
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Semi-finals, second legs: Coventry 1 Newcastle 2 (Coventry win 5-2 on agg), Everton 1 West Ham 0 (West Ham win 3-1 on agg).
LEAGUE OF WALES: Connah's Quay 1 Cwmbran 0
FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bohemians 0 Derry 1, Finn Harps 1 Sligo 1

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Oxford 0 Charlton 2; Portsmouth 2 Swindon 1.
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Bolton 0 Burnley 0; Manchester City 3 Tranmere 2, Oldham 3 Grimsby 1, Sheffield Wed 1 West Bromwich 0
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Arnold 0 Buxton 0; Garforth 3 North Ferriby 2, Liversedge 0 Eccleshill 3, Selby 1 Denaby 1
NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collieries 0 Workington 2; Bootle 1 Newcastle Town 1, Cheadle 2 Glossop North End 0, Rossendale 1 Leek CSOB 3.
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Dunston Federation 3 Chester-le-Street 1; Easington 1 Morpeth 4
JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Ely 1 Woodbridge 1, Halstead 1 Lowestoft 3 Histon 1 Diss 0, Maldon 1 Harwich and Parkeston 0, Newmarket 0 Fakenham 2, Sudbury Town 0 Wroxham 2; Warboys 0 Great Yarmouth 0
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington and New Milton 1 Fareham 0, Money Fields 3 Portsmouth RN 2, Wimborne 1 AFC Newbury 1
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple 3 Bideford 0; Bridgwater 6 Westbury 1, Elmore 2 Taunton 3; Mangotsfield 3 Yeovil TR 2; Melksham 1 Chippenham 0, Paulton 2 Bridport 0
UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Desborough 5 Bourne 2; N Spencer 0 Ford Sports 0, S and L Corby 3 Wootton 2, St Neots 2 Spalding 0.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Stanley Cup play-offs: Eastern Conference: Pittsburgh 2 New Jersey 4 (best-of-seven series tied 2-2); Buffalo 4 Ottawa 3 (Buffalo win series 4-0). **Western Conference:** St Louis 1 Phoenix 2 (Phoenix lead series 3-1); Anaheim 0 Detroit 3 (Detroit win series 4-0); Edmonton 2 Dallas 3 (3 OT, Dallas win series 4-0)

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Maesteg 32 Rumney 31

SAILING

CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: Leg 4b (Singapore to Seychelles, with miles to finish): 1, Mermerus (B Sollars) 2,070; 2, Ariel (A Thomson) 2,071; 3, Senca (R Dean) 2,072; 4, Antiope (K Harris) 2,083; 5, Chrysolite (T Hedges) 2,093; 6, Thermopylae (M Tod) 2,094; 7, Taeping (N Fleming) 2,132

SCHOOLS SPORT

FOOTBALL: Premier League Trophy: Under-19: Semi-final: Northumberland 2 Durham 1. **Lambton Trophy: Under-16: Final:** Middlesbrough 2 Hartlepool 1.

SNOOKER

THE CRUCIBLE, Sheffield: Embassy world championship: Quarter-finals: R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt J Parrott (Eng) 13-9; M Williams (Wales) bt K Doherty (Ire) 13-9. **Latest positions:** S Hendry (Scot) leads M Stevens (Wales) 11-5; J Higgins (Scot) leads S Lee (Eng) 11-5.

SQUASH

LINZ, Austria: European team championship: First qualifying round: Men: Pool A: Scotland 4 Switzerland 0 (P Nicol bt R Donatsch 9-3, 9-1, 9-1; M Heath bt L Harris 9-7, 9-3, 5-9, 9-5; J White bt A Holderegger 9-0, 9-1, 9-0; S Cowie bt Y Del Tenno 9-5, 9-5, 9-6), Finland 3 France 1. **Pool B: England 3 Germany 1** (P Johnson lost to S Frenz 9-2, 1-9, 9-3, 6-9, 6-9; C Walker bt O Kowalski 9-4, 9-1, 9-6, L Beachill bt F Possl 10-8, 9-2, 9-0; M Berrett bt S Oppolzer 9-5, 9-5, 9-1), **Wales 3 Sweden 1** (A Gough bt D Forslund 9-6, 10-9, 9-3, D Evans bt A Thoren 9-1, 9-6, 9-7; G Tippings bt O Jangbecker 10-8, 9-2, 9-4, G Davies lost to P Sjosten 3-9, 5-9, 4-9). **Pool C:** The Netherlands 4 Israel 0. **Pool D: Ireland 4 Portugal 0** (D Ryan bt I Rocha 9-0, 9-0, 9-1, P Foster bt P Coelho 9-1, 9-2, 9-4; C Collins bt R Lima 9-4, 9-1, 9-4, J Rooney bt F Lima 9-0, 9-3, 9-0) **Pool E:** Belgium 4 Bulgaria 0; Italy 4 Czech Republic 0. **Pool F:** Spain 4 Hungary 0; Denmark 4 Cyprus 0. **Women: Pool A: England 3 Sweden 0** (S Horner bt J Wahlberg 9-3, 9-2, 9-0, S Brind bt J Akevall 9-3, 9-0, 9-0; T Bailey bt M Lundmark 9-1, 9-6, 9-1); **Scotland 3 Belgium 0** (P Nimmo bt K Hannes 9-2, 9-5, 9-2, C Waddell bt K Cauwels 8-10, 9-0, 9-3, 9-1; H Macfie bt T Hannes 9-0, 9-0, 9-3) **Pool B:** Germany 3 France 0; The Netherlands 3 Spain 0. **Pool C:** Switzerland 3 Finland 0. **Pool D: Ireland 2 Austria 1** (A Blake lost to P Pancis 2-9, 7-9, 5-9, O French bt I Gradnitzner 10-8, 8-10, 9-4, 9-1; L Mylotte bt S Colli 9-7, 9-1, 9-7)

TENNIS

ATLANTA: AT&T Challenge: First round: M Rodriguez (Arg) bt P Rafter (Aus) 7-5, 7-6, S Grosjean (Fr) bt C Mamiit (US) 6-7, 7-5, 6-1, G Canas (Arg) bt S Draper (Aus) 6-4, 6-3, S Koubek (Austria) bt T Woodbridge (Aus) 6-2, 7-6, A Martin (Sp) bt I Labadze (Geo) 6-2, 4-6, 7-5, J Courier (US) bt M Tillstrom (Swe) 6-3, 6-4.
MUNICH: Bavarian Masters: Second round: V Santopadre (It) bt A Voinea (Rom) 7-6, 7-5; A Pavel (Rom) bt D Pescariu (Rom) 6-7, 6-0, 6-3, A Berasategui (Sp) bt B Karbacher (Ger) 6-4, 7-6; H Dreekmann (Ger) bt A Clement (Fr) 3-6, 6-2, 6-1.
HAMBURG GRAND PRIX: First round: A Glass (Ger) bt A Barna (Ger) 6-4, 7-5, A Kremer (Lux) bt M Maruska (Austria) 6-2, 6-2, C Martinez (Sp) bt J Abe (Ger) 6-3, 6-2; A Coetzer (SA) bt V Ruano-Pascual (Sp) 6-3, 7-6. **Second round:** V Williams (US) bt M Serna (Sp) 6-3, 6-1.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

BRITTENS: Treble chance: 23pts £304.60, 22 £7.80, 21 £1.00. **Four draws:** £8.70. **Five aways:** £0.40. **Eight homes:** £37.60
LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts £114,223.20, 23 £830.70, 22 £53.10, 21 £13.75. **Half-time results:** 22 £3,370.80. **Four draws:** £11.55. **Nine homes:** £750.75
VERNONS: Treble chance: 24pts £40,189.45, 23 £440.60, 22 £51.25
ZETTERS: Treble chance: 25pts £12,051.55, 23 £69.05, 22 £5.15, 21 £0.85. **Four aways** (16 from 39 matches): Void. **Eight homes:** £158. **Four draws** (from all 13 draws): £10.0. **Easy six:** £9.00. **All-draws treble chance** (from all 13 draws): 24pts £186.35, 23 £1.80

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Nationwide League

Second division

Northampton v Wigan (7.45)

Nationwide Conference

Leek v Yeovil (7.45)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Altrincham v Emley, Stalybridge v Runcorn, Whitby v Guiseley. **First division:** Eastwood v Belper, Hucknall v Harrogate, Matlock v Bradford Park Avenue; Radcliffe v Alfreton.
RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Aldershot v Chesham (7.45); Harrow v St Albans; Enfield v Hendon. **First division:** Leyton Pennant v Berkhamsted; Molesey v Chertsey; Whyteleafe v Hitchin, Worthing v Grays. **Second division:** Hemel Hempstead v Wivenhoe; Windsor and Eton v Wokingham. **Third division:** Epsom and Ewell v Ford Utd.
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division: Bashley v Ashford, Havant and Waterlooville v Dartford, Tonbridge Angels v St Leonards. **Midland division:** Evesham v Bloxwich, Solihull Borough v Sutton Coldfield.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Crystal Palace v Tottenham.
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Stoke v Sunderland (7.0).
LEAGUE OF WALES: Connah's Quay v Newtown (7.45)
SCHWEPPES ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Hullbridge Sports v Southend Manor.
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Morpeth v Consett
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Crockenhill v Greenwich
MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkingside v Brimsdown; Buckingham Athletic v Harringey, Waltham Abbey v Ruislip Manor.
BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Gornal v Westfields, Kington v Smethwick, Walsall Wood v Bandon.
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Halstead v Fakenham
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: BAT v Fareham; Money Fields v Lymington and New Milton.
UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ford Sports v Long Buckby
INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Bridgnorth v Wednesfield, Sandwell v Oldbury; Willenhall v Shifnal
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Paulton v Taunton.
NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collieries v St Helens; Maine Road v Ramsbottom; Rossendale v Clitheroe. **League Cup: Final:** Prescot Cables v Vauxhall GM

CRICKET

PPP county championship

11.0, first day of four, 104 overs minimum

TAUNTON: Somerset v Yorkshire

11.0, second day of four, 104 overs minimum

CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Hampshire
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Warwickshire
CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Sussex
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Middlesex
CANTERBURY: Kent v Derbyshire
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Lancashire
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Surrey
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Second day of three: Hove: Sussex v Gloucestershire. **Knowle and Dorridge:** Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire. **Worcester:** Worcestershire v Leicestershire. **York:** Yorkshire v Somerset. **Third day of four: Southampton:** Hampshire v Kent. **The Oval:** Surrey v Essex.

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Woolston v Thornhill (7.45).

OTHER SPORT

ROWING: Wingfield Sculls (Putney to Mortlake, 1.0)

SPORT IN BRIEF

■ **RUGBY LEAGUE:** Allan Langer, the long-serving Australia and Brisbane Broncos scrum half, has blamed a loss of form, which was evident against New Zealand last week, for his sudden retirement yesterday. Langer, 32, who played 22 times for Australia, said: "The toughest thing for players who have been lucky enough to enjoy a long career is knowing when to end it."

■ **BOWLS:** Wales met tough opposition in their third and final international match against Botswana at Selibe-Phikwe yesterday, but managed to maintain their winning sequence with an 8-4 victory. In the opening singles tie, Ray Mascarenhas, who has represented Botswana for more than 20 years, fought back from 13-20 to beat Will Thomas, the 1990 Welsh champion, 25-24. Wales won the previous two matches 12-0 and 10-2.

■ **CYCLING:** Jon Clay is a last-minute replacement for the five-day Travelwise Tour (formerly the Tour of Lancashire) starting tonight in what will be the last big domestic race before the seven-day international Prutour in London on May 23. Clay was selected to ride with the Linda McCartney squad in the Circuit des Mines this week but withdrew because of sickness.

■ **TABLE TENNIS:** The European Table Tennis Union has decided to prevent Yugoslavia from competing in the European League or European Cup next season because of the ongoing crisis in the Balkans. A decision has still not been made on whether to allow Yugoslav teams at the European youth championships in the Czech Republic in July. The cancellation of the world championships in Belgrade has led to the individual event being moved to The Netherlands in August.

GOLF

Olazabal tries to pick up pieces

From Mel Webb in Turin

ONE supposes that the Fiat and Fila Italian Open will start today, somehow or another, but there is something about the Italian organisation for this venerable tournament that is at once disarming and totally, teeth-grindingly, maddening. It was ever thus.

Some aspects of the tournament are staged with military precision, but others bring to mind the phrase involving a brewing establishment and an inability to arrange a drinking party in it. They say a thousand words with one shrug of their bespoke shoulders, they tell you that things will be different tomorrow, or the day after, or next year. And it never is; and they are utterly charming, and they soothe even the most savage of breasts.

This is the 56th Italian Open, which boasts two present holders of major championships — Lee Janzen, who won the US Open for the second time last year, and José Maria Olazábal, who took his second Masters title earlier this month — and they are backed up by two more who have seven titles between them.

One of them, sadly, is unlikely to be a contender for the silverware. Severiano Ballesteros is gracing this tournament with his presence, albeit a Seve with a slightly sore head as the aftershock of his brouhaha with wrong drops and their ilk at the Spanish Open last week continues to reverberate through the ranks.

The other major man is Bernhard Langer, and his performance is likely to depend on his state of health. Langer has spent sizeable chunks of his career afflicted by some malaise or another, and when he is poorly, he is at his most dangerous. If he wakes up this morning with a virus, the rest had better beware.

Meanwhile, Olazábal, who said last week that if he had been split into a thousand fragments there would still not have been enough to go round after his momentous deeds in Augusta, is slowly retrieving a few of the pieces.

"I can't seem to get the adrenalin flowing again," he said. "Things are pretty flat. The only way I'm going to get out of it is to keep playing. I'll will be fine as soon as I get into contention in a tournament again."

You never know, it could be this week, but one of his putative leading rivals is a visiting fireman who is capable of dousing even the hottest challenge. Janzen comes into the tournament, his first regular European Tour event since 1993, after being in contention deep into the last day of the Masters before letting things slide on the back nine to finish tied in fourteenth place.

He claims to be happy to be spending a week in Italy and, no doubt, is, but one wonders if he would be within an ocean of Circologolf today were he not contracted to one of the title sponsors. An unworthy thought? Maybe; but almost certainly true.

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.europeantour.com

TELEVISION: Sky Sports 1, 1pm; Sky Sports 3, 7pm.

O'Sullivan accentuates the positive

By Phil Yates

IN HIS 16 years as a professional, John Parrott has seen more than most and he is deservedly respected both on and off the table. The affable Liverpudlian is also an admirer of the way that Ronnie O'Sullivan plays his snooker.

"They say it's a travesty that Jimmy White has never won this, but it would be an even bigger travesty if Ronnie never got to lift the trophy." Parrott, beaten 13-9 by O'Sullivan in the quarter-finals of the Embassy world championship, said yesterday.

"In my opinion Ronnie is the most naturally talented player ever to pick up a cue," he said. "The problem is that he's not focused all the time."

In lesser events it is true that O'Sullivan often finds motivation, and the concentration that follows, difficult to generate, but that has never been a concern at the Crucible Theatre.

"I'm getting bursts when for four or five frames I feel unbeatable, so it's just a case of minimising the bad spells," O'Sullivan said. "I know I can play better but I don't have to play my best. Grit, determination and attitude are just as important."

O'Sullivan resumed yesterday with an 11-5 lead, but correctly anticipated a Parrott backlash. In losing four of the first five frames of the concluding session, O'Sullivan only potted two reds while the 1991 world champion compiled breaks of 54, 40, 97 and 93 in rallying to 12-9.

Parrott had the momentum, but, presented with the initial scoring opportunity in the next frame, he suffered a kick on an otherwise routine red to a middle pocket. It caught the jaw, O'Sullivan made 32 and eventually doubled the last red to repel Parrott's spirited challenge.

"That's as good a result as I've ever had in my career. John is always so tough to beat," O'Sullivan, defeated in six of their previous eight meetings, said.

His semi-final opponent looks set to be Stephen Hendry, who, remaining unperturbed by a burglary in his hotel room, carried a commanding 11-5 advantage into his third session against Matthew Stevens.

Most of Hendry's shoes and casual clothes were taken, as was a video recorder, but his cue, which lay in its case on the bed at the time of the intrusion, was ignored, along with his dress suits.

Hendry, whose cue was stolen and returned on payment of a £10,000 reward during the 1990 Grand Prix, had runs of 48, 60 and 81 in pulling away from Stevens, but his most important contribution was the outstanding 58 clearance with which he stole the fifteenth frame on the pink.

John Higgins held an 11-5 advantage over Stephen Lee, even though his standard of play dipped considerably from that which transported him to an 8-0 lead on Tuesday. The solitary highlight was a 124 break, his fifth century of the championship.

Lying in wait for the title-holder is Mark Williams, who, like O'Sullivan, endured some anxious stretches before converting an 11-5 overnight lead into a 13-9 win over Ken Doherty, the 1997 champion and runner-up last year.



WEBSITE: www.embassysnooker.com — official tournament site

TELEVISION: BBC1, 2.30pm. BBC2, 3.30, 6.45, 9.50pm

Vaulters rage at handling offence



Who knows what pole vaulters get up to when they are halfway to heaven and ready to freefall back to earth? We can see them when they bend the pole, but it's not so easy to catch them if they bend the rules.

At the moment, the high-fliers of the pole-vaulting world are involved in a furious row over rules. The problem is that every so often pole vaulters pull off a trick that seems to be completely impossible.

While flying through the air, they will knock off the crossbar as they try to clear it and then, in a split second, they will replace it on its pegs. This technique is known as "Volzing" after Dave Volz, of the United States, who used to do it regularly.

At the world indoor championships at Maebashi, Japan, last month, Jean Galfione, of France, the 1996 Olympic champion, became only the fourth pole vaulter to clear six metres indoors, but he nearly missed out on his winner's medal and prize-money when he was accused of Volzing.

Jeff Hartwig, the runner-up, and his United States team officials said that the Frenchman should have been disqualified because he put a hand on the bar. Hartwig reckoned that not only was he robbed of his title, but of the $50,000 prize-money that went with it.

Volzing has been illegal for more than a year, but the rule that outlaws it specifies that it is a foul if a vaulter deliberately, with his hands or fingers, tries to replace a bar about to fall from the supports.

Galfione admitted that he had touched the bar, but said that he had not done it deliberately. The judges agreed. "I feel sorry for Jeff," Galfione said. "The law is stupid, but the law is the law."

In the wake of the row, the International Amateur Athletic Federation is recommending that the rule be changed to state that any vaulter who places a hand on the bar will be disqualified, irrespective of whether they seem to be replacing it or not.

A lot of vaulters think that this is madness. Even Hartwig, the runner-up in Japan, has got away with handling the bar in the past. "Once, when I was young, the bar flew off and whacked me on the chest," he said. "So I think it's a natural reflex to put your arm out to block the bar."

For free-spirited vaulters, the no-hands rule stinks. "Should vaulters place their hands behind their backs or maybe wave to the crowd instead?" one asked. "We should get rid of this stupid rule unless we are also prepared to disqualify high jumpers who steady a trembling crossbar with their posteriors or their calves."

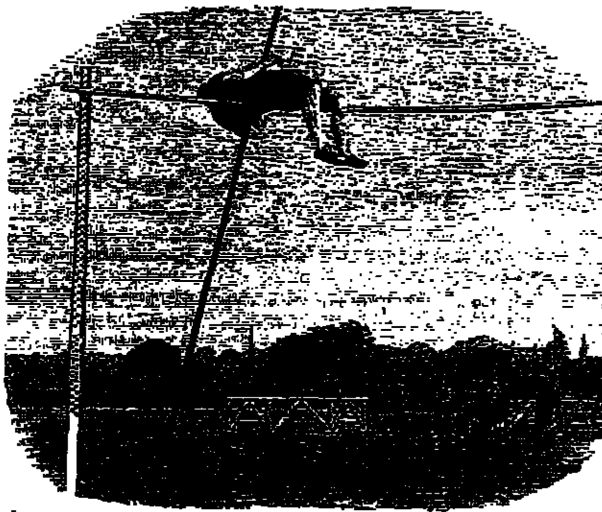


Galfione wins his Olympic gold medal at Atlanta. Photograph: Gary M. Prior/Allsport

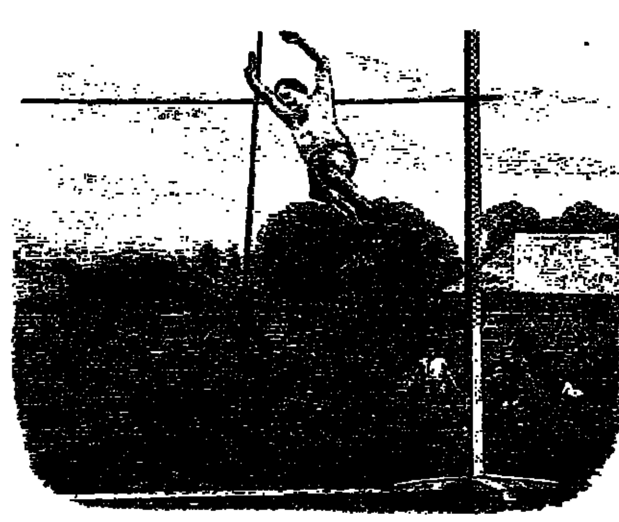
Of all the events in modern track and field, the pole vault is probably the most spectacular. It is certainly the most dangerous. It is a glamour event combining the grace of the gymnast, the strength of a weightlifter, the daring of a skydiver and the precision of a pilot.

It is also ever-changing. It has been in the modern Olympics since the start in 1896, but its equipment and techniques have propelled it beyond the dreams of its pioneers. Next year, Sydney will see women vaulters in the Olympics for the first time.

Right from the start, pole vaulters were up to some peculiar tricks. An account from the 1870s tells of a small acrobat who could beat any pole vaulter by the simple process of clambering up the pole like a monkey once it was poised vertically.



The technique of vaulting in its early years was dictated by the inflexible poles that the athletes had to use



What we do know is that top English vaulters used to climb the pole by shifting their hand-grip. One of these climbers, Tom Ray, who was seven times the AAA's champion, went to the United States in 1887 and won their national championship by clearing a height of 11ft ¾in. The Americans outlawed the technique, though the British still allowed it until after the end of World War I.

Those were the days of unforgiving poles made of hickory, ash or spruce, with a weighted iron tip. The vaulter would cross the bar in a sitting position and, if he was lucky, land on grass clippings or sawdust. Just after the turn of the century, they began to experiment with bamboo poles that were lighter and would flex when planted in the ground.

When the record reached 14ft in 1927, it was hailed as "man's ultimate height". Bamboo ruled the world of vaulting until metal poles appeared in the 1940s.

The advent of fibreglass poles in the 1960s saw records improve out of all recognition and today's king of the vaulters, Sergei Bubka, of Ukraine, soars regularly over man's new "ultimate height" of 20ft.

To most spectators, the thought of sprinting down a runway before trying to plant a 17ft pole into a small hole to catapult skywards is terrifying. It is easy enough to identify with other events — such as running, jumping, throwing and swimming — but pole vaulting is unfathomable.

These daredevils who fly without wings are a rare breed. That they should be cool and skilled enough in mid-vault to reach out and stroke a trembling crossbar is breathtakingly athletic. Far from being penalised for this, they should be applauded. When you are hanging 20ft in the air and attempting the impossible, you need all the helping hands you can get.

JOHN BRYANT

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 46

ORCHIL
(b) A red or violet dye prepared from certain lichens, especially *Roccella tinctoria*.

PLICHTANKER
(a) The main anchor of a ship. From the Low German and then the Dutch *plechtanker*, the principal or chief anchor that holds a ship.

POPVISIT
(a) A short, hasty, or unannounced visit in which one pops in.

NOUTHETICAL
(b) Monitory, warning. From the ancient Greek.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1 Rxg7! Kxg7 2 Rg3+ Kh7 (2 ... Kh8 3 Nxf7+) 3 Qc2+ and the black queen is lost.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Same space, worlds apart

The Planets
BBC2, 9pm

A big new series offering "a natural history of the solar system", no less. Leaving aside the fact that there is no consensus about how the whole thing started, let us be grateful for a guided tour of what there is out there, seen in ever-increasing detail since the first interplanetary probes were sent out, more than 40 years ago. The first film, *Different Worlds*, asks agenda-setting questions about the differences between the nine planets orbiting the Sun. Why are the outermost ones gaseous monsters and the innermost small and rocky? Why is the Earth's core made up of nickel and iron, and Jupiter's of metallic hydrogen? The series charms the eye even when boggling the mind with science.

Jupiter and its nearest moon, Io, are featured in *The Planets* (BBC2, 9pm)

Grand Designs
Channel 4, 8pm

Kevin McCloud, an interior designer and author, presents an eight-part series about people who both design and build their "dream homes". He has a slightly abrasive manner but he is refreshingly straightforward about the couple featured tonight. Tim and Julia, who have a windswept clifftop site near Newhaven in East Sussex, want to build a home in just three months so that Julia's expected child can be born in the new house. How the "pathologically" optimistic (his own description) Tim and Julia cope with the inevitable obstacles and budget over-runs, face up to the shortcomings of their kit-house supplier and the effects of their own rather naive planning, makes a satisfying hour's viewing.

Stars and Cars
Channel 5, 8pm

Henry Cole writes, directs and presents this light-hearted show, which is no more than a collection of interviews with the rich and famous, focusing on their cars. An entertaining session with Jamiroquai singer Jay Kay and two of his Ferraris at Goodwood is prefaced by a chat to Lord March, the circuit owner, in a prototype AC designed by his father. After coaxing Jay Kay to talk about his sex life he is off for lunch with the Mercedes sports car-driving supermodel Caprice. Then follows banter with singer Richard Fairbrass of Right Said Fred fame, who is not too sexy to drive a Porsche, and two of Britain's star sprinters, who favour the MGF and the Ford Puma.

Dilbert
Sky One, 8.30pm

Said to be the most popular comic strip in the world, reaching 150 million readers daily, with spin-off bestsellers and its own World Wide Web Site (which attracts 4 million visits monthly), the cartoon by Scott Adams has now become an animated series which will surely emulate the success of *The Simpsons* and *South Park*. In fact, since Dilbert, though sophisticatedly cynical about the world, is never as "sick" as *South Park*, it has much broader appeal. It is funny, literate, beautifully observed. For those who haven't seen the strip, it features nerdy Dilbert, an engineer for The Company, his dog Dogbert (much smarter than he is), his Scrabble-mad mother, Dilmom, colleagues Wally, Alice and Loud Howard, and The Pointy Haired Boss. **Tony Patrick**

RADIO CHOICE

The Afternoon Play: Encore
Radio 4, 2.15pm

"Kiss me, Cleopatra". "Sod off, Anthony!". A quote, not from Shakespeare, but from Nan Woodhouse's two-hander. It is performed by Timothy West and Julia McKenzie as husband and wife and actors, who have drifted apart. He proposes that they should reunite to perform a pot-pourri of dialogues. Although his intention is to effect a reconciliation, some of their off-stage exchanges are not designed to achieve that end. She: "You could play Humpty Dumpty". He: "You're a little too old for Alice". She: "But not for the Red Queen. Off with his head!". *Encore* could not have been written by someone who knew nothing about the theatre and the illusory creatures who populate it — and cannot stop acting, even off stage.

The Circle
Radio 4, 11.30am

Elizabeth Baines's comedy series gets off to a promising start. It isn't every writer who in the space of a little under 30 minutes can juggle with three married couples, their respective children and their attempts to strike a balance between parenthood, neighbourhood and livelihood. Episode one lays down the groundplan for what will be the series's principal preoccupation — the plan to set up a babysitting circle on a housing estate where, as someone says, there isn't a child-minding teenager in sight. There seems to be little chance of this circle being squared. Especially good in a cast that includes Sherrie Hewson, are the little 'uns who are fated to be the catalysts in this experiment in mutualism. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Chris Moyles **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Dave Pearce **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session **10.00** The Global Update **10.10** John Peel. Musical treats **12.00** Andy Kershaw **2.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.05** Richard Allinson **7.00** Bob Harris Country **8.00** Paul Jones **9.00** Take it Easy: California Cool (5/5) **9.30** The News Huddlines **10.00** Boogie-Woogie with George Melly (2/6) **10.30** Lynn Parsons. Favourite tunes **12.00** Katrina Leskanich **3.00am** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** The Midday News **1.00pm** Ian Payne. The latest sports news and gossip **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Wembley, the Church of Football (4/4) **8.00** Inside Edge **9.00** Hoops **9.30** Sportshop **10.00** Late Night Live. Presented by Brian Hayes, including a sports round-up and The Financial World Tonight **1.00am** Up All Night. News from around the world

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Justice With Jacobs **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** The Sports Zone **7.00** One to One with Andy Gray **8.00** Jackie Mason Live from New York **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am The Breakfast Show **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Gary Davies **1.00am** Richard Allen **4.30** Phil Kennedy

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** World Business Report **8.15** Insight **8.30** Assignment **9.00** World News **9.05** From Our Own Correspondent **9.20** Off the Shelf: Frankenstein **9.35** The Works **10.00** World News **10.05** Understanding Cancer **10.20** Andy Kershaw's World of Music **10.50** Sports Round-Up **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Britain Today **11.45** World Business Report **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Assignment **1.00** World News **1.05** Outlook **1.45** Sports Round-Up **2.00** Newshour **3.00** World News **3.05** The Works **3.30** Meridian Books **4.00** World News **4.05** Sports Round-Up **4.15** Westway **4.30** The Greenfield Collection **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Insight **6.00** Newdesk **6.30** Record News **6.45** Sports Round-Up **7.00** World News **7.15** Britain Today **7.30** Assignment **8.00** World News **8.05** The Works **8.30** Science On A Plate **8.45** Off the Shelf: Frankenstein **9.00** Newshour **10.00** World News **10.05** World Business Report **10.20** Britain Today **10.30** Meridian Books **11.00** World News **11.15** Sports Round-Up **11.30** Blues World **12.00** World News **12.05am** Outlook **12.45** Insight **1.00** The World Today **1.30** The Works **1.55** My Century **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Westway **2.45** Performance **3.00** The World Today **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today **4.20** Sports Round-Up **4.30** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. A selection of rousing music to start the day **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week **12.00** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents favourite music **2.00pm** Concerto. Vieuxtemps (Cello Concerto No 1 in A minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. The latest headlines and sport updates **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classic sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Brahms (Academic Festival Overture); Tchaikovsky (Romeo and Juliet); Mozart (Clarinet Concerto in A); Beethoven (Symphony No 7 in A) **11.00** Mann at Night. A chance to wind down with the sound of ambient music **2.00am** Concerto (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

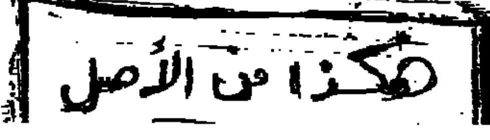
RADIO 3

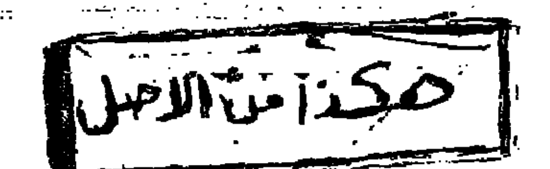
6.00am On Air With Petroc Trelawny, including a report from Birmingham on a community performance of Philip Glass's opera *Satyagraha*, about Gandhi
9.00 Masterworks With Peter Hobday. John Foulds (April-England); **9.06** Corelli (Concerto grosso in C, Op 6 No 10); **9.21** Copland (Suite, Billy the Kid); **9.42** Mozart (Horn Concerto No 1 in D, K412); **9.52** Rubbra (Symphony No 8, Homage to Teilhard de Chardin); **10.17** Corelli (Concerto grosso in B flat, Op 6 No 11)
10.30 Artist of the Week Clarinettist Emma Johnson
11.00 Sound Stories Richard Baker looks at the history of the post of Master of the King's Music
12.00 Composer of the Week: Duke Ellington
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Lowri Blake, cello, Iwan Llewellyn-Jones, piano. Faure (Cello Sonata No 1 in D minor, Op 109); Schumann, arr Gendron (Three Romances, Op 94); Martinu (Cello Sonata No 2) (r)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Philharmonic. Enescu (Romanian Rhapsody No 1: under Gennadi Rozhdestvensky); Grieg (Piano Concerto in A minor: under Yan Pascal Tortelier); Enescu (Romanian Rhapsody No 2 in D; Symphony No 3 in C: under Gennadi Rozhdestvensky)
4.00 The Piano Piers Lane profiles Maurizio Pollini
5.00 In Tune The legacy of Duke Ellington
7.30 Performance on 3 Live from the Festival Hall, London. Valdine Anderson, soprano, Susan Bickley, mezzo, Peter Bronder, tenor, BBC SO under Martyn Brabbins. Thomas Ades (These Premises Are Alarmed); Maxwell Davies (Symphony No 5); **8.05** Anglophiles. **8.25** Concert. Birtwistle, arr Berkeley (Love Cries, The Second Mrs Kong; Endless Parade)
9.20 Postscript What makes a great musical setting?
9.40 Smetana Three Poetic Polkas (Andras Schiff)
10.00 Music Restored Robert Hollingworth looks at some of the best Handel recordings
11.00 Night Waves In *The Political Lives of Dead Bodies*, anthropologist Katherine Verdery examines the lives of Bela Bartok and Prince Lasa of Serbia. Paul Allen discusses her findings
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton invites author Claire Gordon, producer George Avakian and bassist Jimmy Woode to recall Duke Ellington's life
12.00 Through the Night Including **12.05** Szymanowski (Prelude in C sharp minor); **12.25** Sibelius (Masonic Ritual Music); **12.50** Lithander (Divertimento No 1); **1.00** Rossini (Overture, The Thieving Magpie); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 2 in A); Dvorak (Symphony No 7); **2.10** Eckhard (Menuet d'exaudet and Variations); **2.30** J.C. Bach (Quintet in F); **2.40** Hummel (Trumpet Concerto in E flat); **3.00-4.00** Schools: Music Workshop; **3.20** Let's Move!; **3.40** Words Alive!; **3.55** Drama; **4.10** Listen and Write; **4.30** Rameau (Pieces de clavecin, Book 2); **4.55** Gal (Serenade for strings). **5.15** Thuille (Sextet in B flat); **5.45** Marais (Tombeau de M Lully); Cavalli (La calisto, excerpt)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast
5.45 Prayer for the Day With Pastor Lindsay Allen
5.47 Farming Today Rural issues, with Anna Hill
6.00 Today With John Humphrys and James Naughtie. Including Thought for the Day, with Indarjit Singh
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Political round-up
9.00 Melvyn Bragg: In Our Time Guests join Melvyn Bragg to consider ideas and events which have influenced the present age
9.30 Blind Man on the Rampage What Colour is Maroon, Anyway? Peter White's perspective on life without sight, exploring the world through sound, touch, smell and the help of others (2/5)
9.45 (FM) Serial: Nathaniel's Nutmeg Ben Onwukwe reads the fourth extract from Giles Milton's tale
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
10.00 Woman's Hour With Jenni Murray and guests. Drama: part four of *Postcards* by Nick Darke
11.00 Crossing Continents Olenka Frenkiel reports on attempts to control gun violence in Chicago
11.30 The Circle See Choice
12.00 (FM) News
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.04pm You and Yours Consumer news and investigations, presented by John Waite and Liz Barclay
1.00 The World at One With Nick Clarke
1.30 Open Country With Richard Uridge
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Encore By Nan Woodhouse. With Julia McKenzie. See Choice
3.00 Call *You and Yours: 0870 010 0444*
3.28 Radio 4 Appeal Jeremy Irons speaks on behalf of the Prader-Willi Syndrome Association (r)
3.30 Naming the Universe (4/5)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Narrated by Anna Massey (r)
4.00 Nice Work Presented by Alison Mitchell
4.30 The Material World Trevor Phillips meets the scientists who claim to have invented one of the world's most slippery surfaces
5.00 PM With Clare English and Eddie Mair
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 That Reminds Me Ned Sherrin looks back on his entertaining career. Last in the series (6/6)
7.00 The Archers The latest events in Ambridge
7.15 Front Row Arts round-up with Francine Stock
7.45 Postcards Nick Darke's drama, starring Diana Berriman, Emma Rice and Carl Grose. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 United Irishman Fergal Keane recalls the turbulent life of Wolfe Tone, the Protestant founding father of Irish republicanism (r)
8.30 The Week in Westminster Michael Crick takes a look behind the scenes
9.00 Connect Quentin Cooper investigates precision farming and its implications for agricultural heritage
9.30 Melvyn Bragg: In Our Time (r)
10.00 The World Tonight With Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Service of Clouds Joanna David reads part nine of Susan Hill's novel
11.00 Late Night on 4: Do Go On Griff Rhys Jones, Graeme Garden and Melanie Hudson join Ainsley Elliot in a satirical discussion on travel (5/6)
11.30 (FM) Your Place or Mine? Report on the Caribbean women who travelled to Canada to become domestic workers in the 1960s. Last in the series (5/5) (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Political round-up
12.00 News
12.30am The Late Book: Biggest Elvis Ron Berglas reads part nine of P.F. Kluge's novel about three Elvis impersonators working in the Philippines
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe





Laugh, but in the privacy of your own home

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

You know how it is when you are walking past one of those sex shops in Amsterdam and the window is full of moulded-latex-and-stainless-steel contraptions that are so bizarre that it takes you six minutes to figure out what they might be used for and a further ten to work out who might possibly want to use it for that purpose? That is much the same level of bemusement that fills me when confronted by a TV screen featuring Hale and Pace. Who could possibly find these two men funny?

And then, having returned from The Netherlands, you are sitting around a dinner table telling some friends about this scary sex aid you spotted in an Amsterdam shop window, and how you have been trying to work out what kind of person might use such a device, when suddenly your mouth goes dry: because it has occurred to you that *somebody* must be using these things — otherwise why make them? — and maybe that somebody is one of your dining companions. Possibly, it is this same person who also likes Hale and Pace.

Nobody admits to using the spookier sex aids, just as nobody admits to finding Hale and Pace funny. But there *must* be people who laugh at Hale and Pace in the privacy of their own homes. Why else would the BBC have squandered so much money on hiring this pair of jokers (I'm not using this word in the same sense as they might use it of themselves) from ITV? Look around you now, in your Tube train or at the neighbouring desks in your office: statistically, some of these men and women *must* be closet Hale and Pace fans. You will never be able to avoid these people completely. Just try to keep a safe distance.

Just how dispiriting was the opening show of Hale and Pace's new variety series, **h&p@bbc** (BBC1)? So dispiriting that the *Radio Times* couldn't even bring itself to recommend it to readers. Maybe Hale and Pace are experimenting with a very avant-garde sense of humour, pitching themselves as the Surrealist Ionescos of BBC Light Entertainment by producing a comedy show that has no obvious comedy in it at all.

And what's with that title (all lower case, note, which shows that Hale and Pace have done their homework and are therefore now as Web-smart as, say, the average nine-year-old)? Gareth was wondering that, too. "So it's not," said Gareth mockingly to Norman, hoping to draw the sting by getting in before us, "actually a vain attempt by two fat, middle-aged comedian blokes to look vaguely trendy and computer-aware?" But if not that, then what was it? Maybe Hale and Pace don't mind handing their audience a stick with which to beat them, because this would at least imply that they have an audience.

The show itself was a ragbag of sweepings from those ideas rejected by other variety shows. In a pointless quiz, the competitors — Tony Blackburn, the Eurovision singer Katrina Leskanich, and the DJ Jonathan Coleman (the only redeeming presence in the show) — answered questions that were neither interesting nor amusing. For a pop quiz, contestants from the audience had to listen to snatches of music while immersing their heads in a tank of water: was there any reason for this, other than the fact that the person who devised this game had the IQ of semolina? After that, for no apparent reason, a traffic warden from Islington appeared naked for us — a "Naked Civil Servant". But he wasn't a civil servant, was he?

The "comedy" duo thought it would be amusing to go to Scotland to see just how stingy the Scots are by entering shops in Perth and demanding that they be given things free. This left the shopkeepers with the choice of either looking tight-fisted, or of being intimidated by two "comedians" and their film crew who — uninvited — were recording the shopkeepers' reactions for the BBC. This segment ended with us being allowed to watch Gareth urinating from under his newly acquired, freebie kilt: maybe there was a punchline here, but I couldn't see it. Or maybe we could see it, but it was just very, very small. We all look forward to next week, when Hale and Pace might explore other stereotypes (blacks? Jews? Germans?) to similar hilarious effect.

As for the celebrity *Stars in their Eyes* in which Anthea "it's time for another image change" Turner confessed (only jokingly) to being an egomaniac, before regaling us in the guise of Shane MacGowan, the thought foremost in your mind was: who advises this woman on her PR?

Compared with this, listening to Mark Urban tell us on **Leviathan** (BBC2) that the Good Friday agreement is not all that dissimilar to the Sunningdale agreement which attempted power-sharing in Northern Ireland 26 years ago — and that after all these years nobody had come up with any new ideas — really was funny. Or else it was depressing. I forget which. Sometimes the two are very similar.

Jamie Oliver, BBC2's **Naked Chef**, is moving closer to TV sainthood. Last week he cooked dinner for his sister's hen night. This week he babysat his young cousins while preparing ravioli and a praline *semi freddo* for their parents' dinner. Here is a search for a new TV formula that has paid off: the chatting to an unseen interviewer, the frantic hand-held camera: the handsome, unfussy, 23-year-old chef whose descriptive vocabulary runs out after pukkah, wicked, lovely jubbly, and really funky: the cooking for photogenic relatives. It could all so easily have gone wrong. Oliver clearly has a bright television future, just so long as he resists the temptation to make guest appearances on Hale and Pace.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (91097)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (37726)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (9461542)
9.45 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook (r) (T) (841349)
10.15 The Vanessa Show (T) (1649946)
11.00 News; Weather (T) (5322146)
11.05 City Hospital (T) (9532875)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (5390338)
12.00 Going for a Song (7188225)
12.25pm Just a Minute (T) (4938702)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (11022900)
1.00 News; Weather (T) (30813)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (58460252)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (95675691)
2.00 Through the Keyhole (T) (7271)
2.30 Snooker: World Championship The opening session of the first semi-final. Commentary by Clive Everton (7056146)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (8912146) *3.45 Chucklewood Critters (2909184)* **4.10** Alvin and the Chipmunks (1753368) **4.20** Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (5389558) **4.35** *Goosebumps (7900691)* **5.00** Newsround (5949788) **5.10** Miami 7 (2873287)
5.33 Rewind (T) (418287)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (731894)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (900)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (252)
7.00 Watchdog: On the House Adrian Chiles visits the homes of Lottery winners, and *travels to a housing estate in Glasgow* with a rather unusual problem (T) (1287)
7.30 EastEnders (T) (436)
8.00 Animal Hospital (T) (4707)
8.30 Supernatural: The Unseen Power of Animals (T) (6542)
9.00 **Nine O'Clock News;** Regional News; Weather (T) (1078)
9.30 Party Political Broadcast By the *Conservative party* (T); Weather (719349)



More romantic escapades with the quarrelsome foursome (9.35pm)

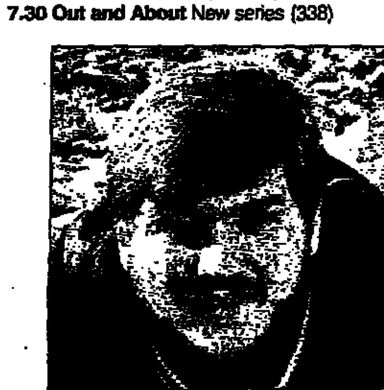
9.35 Men Behaving Badly Tony decides to dump his old girlfriend in favour of Debs. Comedy series, with Martin Clunes, Neil Morrissey, Caroline Quentin and Leslie Ash (r) (T) (724146)
10.00 They Think It's All Over (T) (88374)
10.30 The Frank Skinner Show w (T) (18542)
11.00 Question Time (T) (809184)
12.05am Hurry Sundown (1967) FILM Melodrama *focusing on the economic and racial* tensions affecting a small community in post-Second World War America. Michael Caine stars. Directed by Otto Preminger (35729127)
2.20 Weather (5111092)
2.25 BBC News 24 (86458769)

WALES

9.00am-9.45 Election Call (1/4) (9461542) *6.30-7.00 Wales Today* (T) (252) **9.30-9.35 Party Election Broadcast** (T) (719349) **2.20am-2.25 News** (T) (5111092)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Noddy in Toyland (39184) **7.30** Top Cat (8411417) **7.55** Blue Peter (8769610) **8.20** Dastardly and Muttley (8474981) *8.40 Polka Dot Shorts (3957900)* **8.50** Tales of Aesop (3953184) **8.58** Tales from the Net (1595691) **9.00** Job Bank (4575829) *9.10 Watch Out (9014320)* **9.30** Watch (7857436) **9.45** Come Outside (7845691) **10.00** Children's BBC: Teletubbies (84146) **10.30** Storytime (3400436) **10.45** The *Experimenter (9922417)* **11.05** Space Ark (5343639) **11.15** Zig Zag (1395981) **11.35** Pathways of Belief (2753900) **11.50** Susanne (2747349) **12.10pm** The Geography Programme (7297504) **12.28** Tales from the Net (9766097) **12.30** Working Lunch (24691)
1.00 Children's BBC: Just So Stories (38775829)
1.10 The Countryside Hour (r) (1204233)
2.10 Wildlife Showcase (r) (T) (89376981)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (8787233)
2.45 Westminster (T) (5533165)
3.25 News; Weather (T) (5273271)
3.30 Snooker: World Championship Semi-final coverage (741233)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine A Bajoran village is attacked by a mysterious destructive energy force (r) (T) (660184)
6.45 Snooker: World Championship The second semi-final (311953)
7.30 Out and About New series (338)



Ray Mears encounters danger on India's Coromandel coast (8pm)

8.00 Ray Mears' World of Survival The survivalist learns to fish with the people of the Vadabalija tribe (r) (T) (2349)
8.30 Top Gear (T) (4184)
9.00 CHOICE **The Planets** New series exploring the enigmas of the solar system (T) (342252)
9.50 Snooker: World Championship Semi-final coverage (319981)
10.30 Party Political Broadcast By the Conservative party (102558)
10.35 Newsnight (T) (541788)
11.28 Tales from the Net (T) (979962)
11.30 Wildlife on Two (r) (T) (257252)
11.55 Holiday Weather (766610)
12.00 Despatch Box (53905)
12.30am BBC Learning Zone: OU: Insights into Violence (32924) **1.00** Which Body? (92943) **1.30** The Psychology of Addiction (73914) **2.00** Further Education: Psychology (61635) **4.00** Teaching Film and Media: An Ideal Husband (98059) **5.00** Business and Training: Web Wise (3706740) *5.45 Open* University: Women at the Wire (2210498) **6.10** Out of the Melting Pot (4982301)

WALES

7.30pm Ray Mears' World of Survival (r) (T) (338) **8.00-8.30 Shop Talk** (2349) **10.30-10.35 Party Election Broadcast** (102558)

HTV WEST

5.30am ITV Morning News (81977)
6.00 GMTV (2304252)
9.25 Trisha (T) (3057523)
10.30 This Morning (T) (49664691)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7527875)
12.30 ITV News; Weather (T) (2221829)
12.55 Shortland Street (1217707)
1.30 Home and Away Donald has doubts about his marriage (T) (16617233)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (5575691)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2571146)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (5272542)
3.15 HTV News (T) (5271813)
3.20 CITV: Maisy (5278726) **3.25** The Adventures of Dawdle (5268349) **3.35** The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (5016707) **3.50** Lavender Castle (5020900) **4.05** Hey Arnold! (7588523) **4.30** Children's Ward (875)
5.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (3691)
5.30 Pleasure Guide (T) (455)
5.58 HTV Weather (319962)
6.00 HTV News (T) (697252)
6.25 Party Election Broadcast By the Conservative Party (943078)
6.29 HTV Crimestoppers (943078)
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (320)



Kathy (Malandra Burrows) confronts Chris (Peter Amory) (7pm)

7.00 Emmerdale (T) (3455)
7.30 **A Consuming Passion** An insight into the work of Orchard Lodge near Taunton, one of the UK's few units for youngsters with serious eating disorders (504)
8.00 The Bill The jury retire to consider their verdict on DS Boulton (T) (1184)
9.00 **The Last Train** *The survivors discover a* self-sufficient community in the barren countryside. Part five of the apocalyptic drama series, with Nicola Walker and Christopher Fulford (5/6) (T) (1320)
10.00 Tonight with Trevor McDonald Safety fears surrounding airbags (T) (1707)
11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (468146)
11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (353875)
11.30 **A Trip in the Cosmic Buggy** From Dellers Wharf in Taunton (T) (57964)
12.00 Public Morals (r) (7884498)
12.35am The Jerry Springer Show American talk show (T) (9712059)
1.20 Cyber Cafe (r) (1743045)
1.50 **Trainspotters** (7/13) (2661295)
2.45 Box Office America (4541214)
3.10 Cybernet (84906214)
3.40 Murder, She Wrote (2300363)
4.30 Coach (r) (83378479)
4.50 ITV Nightscreen (3818672)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: **5.30pm-5.58 Crazy Creatures** (T) (455) **7.30-8.00 The Insiders** (3/4) (504) **10.00 The Ferret** (94962) *10.30-11.00* **The Sharp End** Investment in public transport (88310) **11.30-12.35 Tonight with Trevor McDonald** (T) (143165)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (9745504) **12.55 Home and Away** (T) (2126320) *1.25* **The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (4307436) **2.10-2.40 Echo Point** (89370707) **3.15-3.20 Central News;** Weather (T) (5271813) **5.30 Shortland Street** (455) **6.00-6.25 Central News at Six;** Weather (T) (697252) *7.30-8.00* **Our House** (T) (504) **11.20-11.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (353875) **11.30-12.35 The Wright Verdicts** (143165) **1.20am Jenny** (5448653) **1.45 Swift Justice** (r) (8026450) **2.35 Cybernet** (4527634) *3.00 ITV at the V98 Festival (r) (3083450)* **3.55 Central Jobfinder '99** (T) (6953740) **5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (9072818)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except. **12.15pm News** (T) (7527875) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** *12.55-1.25 Lunchtime Live* (T) (2126320) *1.25* **The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (4307436) **2.10-2.40 Home and Away** (T) (89370707) **3.15-3.20 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (5271813) **4.59-5.00 Birthday People** (7691926) *5.30 Dig It With Den* (8/18) (455) **6.00-6.25 Westcountry Live;** Weather (T) (697252) **7.30-8.00 A Foreign Affair** (504) **11.20-11.30 News** (T) (353875) **11.30-12.35 Storytellers: Rod Stewart** (143165)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (7527875) **5.30 Grass Roots** (T) (455) **6.00-6.25 Meridian Tonight** (T) (697252) *7.29* **Meridian Weather** (169829) **7.30-8.00 Meridian Focus** (1/4) (504) **11.20 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (244982) **11.35-12.35 Renegade** (r) (688078) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (55924)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.14pm Anglia Air Watch** (9765368) **12.15-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7527875) *5.24* **Anglia Air Watch** (7573207) **5.25-6.00 About Anglia** (7191310) **6.00-6.25 Anglia News** (T) (697252) *7.30-8.00 Craven's Collectables* (T) (504) **11.19 Anglia Air Watch** (977504) **11.20 Anglia News** (T) (353875) **11.30 Crime Night** (867788) *11.45-12.00 The Ticket* (r) (888271)

S4C

Starts **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (28430523) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (69470287) **9.00 Ysgolion:** History in Action (67627252) **9.20 Geographical Eye** (67614788) **9.40 Science** *In Focus special: Electrons at Play* (35279287) **10.00 Middle English** (54155146) **10.20 Fourways Farm** (23278743) **10.30 Scientific Eye** (71091639) **10.50 Express** (15363639) **11.00 The Number Crew** (47938639) **11.10 Lisa Looks Back** (25776875) **11.25 Schools at Work** (94142959) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (90002981) *12.00 Caroline in the City* (r) (T) (63848349) **12.30pm Sesame Street** (T) (93739417) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (69377146) **1.30 Little Gems** (85968726) **1.40 FILM: Arabian Adventure** (T) (38594610) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (99783900) **4.0 0 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (99779707) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (99768691) **5.00 Planed Plant** (41140504) **5.30** *Countdown* (T) (99782271) *6.00* **Party Election Broadcast** (70501875) **6.05 Newyddion 6** (T) (70500146) **6.10 Heno** (T) (39004436) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (41160368) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (99769320) **8.00 Ti Di** *Gweld?* (T) (41146788) *8.30* **Teulu'r Mans** (r) (T) (41158523) **9.00 She's Gotta Have It** (T) (90098788) **9.30 Friends** (T) (93742981) **10.00** *Father Ted* (T) (51514436) *10.35* **Etholiad '99** (29091184) **10.50 Dispatches** (T) (69243078) **11.50 The 11 O'Clock Show** (67730455) **12.20am The Adam and Joe Show** (T) (15744818) **12.50 Prey** (T) (86343030) **1.50** *Diwedd* *11.45-12.00* **The Ticket** (888271)

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (5400691)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (20436)
9.00 Schools: History in Action (9010504) **9.20** Geographical Eye (9030368) **9.40** Science in Focus Special: Electrons at *Play (7401184)* **10.00** Middle English (3394252) **10.20** Fourways Farm (7768542) *10.30 Scientific Eye (9927962)* **10.50** Express (8143875) **11.00** The Number Crew (5339436) **11.10** Lisa *Looks Back (6931829)* *11.25 Schools at* Work (9622875) Powerhouse (8981)
12.00 Sesame Street (T) (91875)
12.30pm **Bewitched** (T) (22287)
1.00 Suddenly Susan (23523)
1.30 The Three Stooges The trio are *mistaken for reporters* (r) (95684349)
1.50 In a Lonely Place (1950) FILM A jaded scriptwriter who is suspected of murder becomes involved with a young film star. Thriller, starring Humphrey Bogart and *Gloria Grahame. Directed by Nicholas* Ray (21055523)
3.30 Collectors' Lot Debbie Thrower meets a *fan of stainless steel teapots* (T) (726)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (233)
4.30 Countdown (T) (7007558)
4.55 **Ricki Lake** (T) (9772691)
5.30 Pet Rescue Presented by Wendy Turner-Webster and Mark Evans (T) (487)
6.00 **Friends** (r) (T) (610)
6.30 Hollyoaks Ty asks Lucy for help (T) (962)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (956813)
7.55 Margaret Thatcher: Where Am I Now? Steve Bell's animated look at the Thatcher years (856523)



Kevin McCloud supervises the *construction of a clifftop home (8pm)*

8.00 CHOICE **Grand Designs** Author and designer Kevin McCloud follows the progress of people designing their dream homes (1/8) (T) (9726)
9.00 **Dispatches** *Disturbing report on the* illegal trafficking of women throughout eastern Europe and southeast Asia. Promised new lives and decent jobs, the girls frequently end up as prostitutes in Britain (T) (9962)
10.00 NYPD Blue The team investigates the murder of an elderly couple, while Russell *and Kirkendall meet Delores in an* unexpected place (T) (9349)
11.00 The 11 O'Clock Show (9233)
11.30 **Ally McBeal** *Ally defends a doctor* accused of unethical practices and squares up to Georgia in the kickboxing *ring.* With Calista Flockhart (66436)
12.30am 4 Later Introduction; Prey (6093127)
1.25 Vids Offbeat video review (3161943)
2.00 Late Toon: Fight *Animation (5124566)*
2.05 NYPD Blue The detectives investigate a union leader's death (r) (T) (7798585)
3.00 The Great Ziegfeld (1936) FILM Oscar-winning musical biopic of master showman and Hollywood impresario Florenz Ziegfeld. William Powell stars in the title role, with Myrna Loy. Directed by Robert Z. Leonard (19076634)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport (5265813)
7.00 WideWorld (r) (T) (2295829)
7.30 Milkshake! (2083287)
7.35 Muppet Babies; 5 News (4334900)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (8114233)
8.30 Deppledown Farm (r) (8113504)
9.00 The Roseanne Show (r) (5827542)
9.50 Russell Grant's Postcards (8235875)
9.55 The Bold and the Beautiful Katie *confronts Grant* (T) (8061894)
10.20 Sunset Beach Cole tries to keep Annie from running away (T) (4527455)
11.10 **Leeza** (3282320)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (8117320)
12.30pm Family Affairs Pam thinks she is *going mad* (r) (T); 5 News Update (8580879)
1.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show Studio *debate on everyday issues* (4185981)
1.50 Heat Wave FILM Drama about a young couple who are forced to flee the city during an *intense heatwave.* With Ben Murphy, Bonnie Bedelia, Lew Ayres and David Huddleston. Directed by Jerry Jameson; 5 News Update (28234788)
3.15 The Iron Mistress (1952) FILM Western adventure based on the life and loves of Jim Bowie. Alan Ladd stars. Directed by Gordon Douglas (7409788)
5.15 **5 News** (T) (59512788)
5.20 Russell Grant's Postcards A traveller's guide to Jamaica (r) (59526981)
5.30 100 Per Cent (6412184)
6.00 5 News; Weather (T) (6419097)
6.30 Family Affairs Clive attempts suicide (T); 5 News Update (6400349)
7.00 The Pepsi Chart Music by TQ, Westlife and Dee'tah, who performs her new single *El Paradiso Rico* (2429233)
7.30 Wild in the USA Insight into the lives of the red-tailed hawk and the prairie falcon as they compete for food and territory (T); 5 News Update (6499233)
8.00 CHOICE **Stars and Cars** Motor and lifestyle show, presented by Henry Cole (1/6) (T) (2438981)
8.30 Viva Espana The lap dancers divulge *their tactics for dissuading enthusiastic* punters, while Jim Bunyon decides to cheer himself up with a visit to Bunyol's tomato festival. *Over at Lineker's Bar, the* customers gear up to perform their own version of *The Full Monty*; 5 News Update (2424788)
9.00 Moment of Truth: Cradle of Conspiracy (TVM 1994) FILM A teenager *alarms her parents by embarking on a* dangerous relationship with a man involved in the blackmarket baby business — and then announces that she is pregnant. Starring Dee Wallace Stone, Danica McKellar, Kurt Deutsch and Carmen Argenziano. Directed by Gabrielle Beaumont; 5 News Update (49562455)
10.50 Bring Me the Head of Light Entertainment (5511146)
11.25 Red Shoe Diaries *Tales of erotica from* the streets of Rio (1541875)
12.00 Ice Hockey NHL Richard Orford and *Todd Macklin present the Conference* quarter-finals (9089295)
4.30am European Motorsport (4072158)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (6209363)

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SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (73542) **7.30** Godzilla (69349) **8.00** Pokemon (54368) *8.30 Hollywood Squares (53639)* *9.00* Sally Jessy Raphael (63726) **10.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (58233) *11.00 Guilty! (78097)* **12.00** Jenny Jones (61146) **1.00pm** Mad *About You (72813)* *1.30 Jeopardy (74610)* **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (36523) **3.00** Jenny Jones (76504) **4.00** Guilty! (85639) **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (6320) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (7382) **6.30** Dream Team (1504) **7.00** The Simpsons (4349) **7.30** The Simpsons (7788) **8.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (3067) **8.30** Dilbert. See Television Choice (2504) **9.00** Friends (64523) **9.30** ER (54900) **10.30** Veronica's Closet (34504) **11.00** Dream Team (96368) **11.30** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (35165) **12.30am** Chris Evans (29672) **1.30** Law and Order (64382) **2.30** Long Play (9017030)

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SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
US Marshals (1998)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
Titanic (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
Fire Down Below (1997)

SKY PREMIER

5.10am The Directors: The Films of Robert Zemeckis (8704691) **6.05 A Stranger to Love (1996)** (49573184) **8.00 Kiss Me Goodbye (1982)** (25417) **10.00 Batman and Robin (1997)** (84097) **12.00 A Stranger to Love (1996)** (48368) **2.00pm Kiss Me Goodbye (1982)** (18078) **4.00** *Major League (1989)* (67379436) **5.55 Batman and Robin (1997)** (92721900) **8.00** Hollywood Buzz (6707) **8.30** *Head* **Above Water (1996)** (96691) **10.00 Conspiracy Theory (1997)** (76647542) **12.20am The Arrival (1996)** (376943) **2.15 Criminal Law (1988)** (38143092) **4.20** The Directors: Alan Pakula (862108)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.40am The Double Man (1967) (73840523) **7.25 No More Baths! (1997)** (81419417) **9.00 UHF (1989)** (47639) *11.00 Friendship's Field (1996)* (27243) **1.00 Snowboard Academy (1997)** (41455) *3.00 UHF (1989)* (39981) **5.00 Friendship's Field (1996)** (30788) **7.00** *Snowboard Academy (1997)* (55146) **9.00 The Three Lives of Karen (1997)** (89908) *11.00 Lethal Weapon II (1989)* (324639) **12.55am The Heavenly Kid (1985)** (107180) **2.30 Adam: His Song Continues (1986)** (867092) **4.05 When** *Husbands Cheat (TVM 1997)* (852721)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Father Brown (1954) (7727981) **6.00 Tarzan's Fight For Life (1958)** (9059702) **8.00 The Mackintosh Man (1973)** (1930287) **10.00 The Towering Inferno (1974)** (84394417) **12.45am** 100 Years, 100 Movies (5024479) **1.40 The Great Lover (1949)** (23931276) **3.05 The Woman in Green (1945)** (30768566) **4.15 The French Line (1954)** (3459059)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Two Solutions for One Problem (1936368) **6.05 Through the Olive Trees (1994)** (58076417) **8.00 Legends of the Fall (1994)** (20848320) **10.15 Kalifornia (1993)** (7650558) **12.15am Roadracers (TVM 1993)** (9422301) **1.50 From Dusk Till Dawn (1996)** (6677011) **3.35 Gallivant (1996)** (7553721) **5.25** Smart Alek (6767276) **6.00** Close

TNT

9.00pm Conagher (1991) (25603897) **11.15 Mister Buddwing (1966)** (97501417) **1.15am Penelope (1966)** (71544740) **3.00 Conagher (1991)** (84091585) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** Wrestling **8.15** *You're On Sky Sports!* **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style **10.00** Football **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style **12.30pm** Cricket **1.00** Live European Tour Golf **5.00** Wrestling **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** Cricket **7.00** Football League **8.00** Wrestling **11.15** *You're On Sky Sports!* **12.00** Sports Centre **12.15am** World of Cricket **12.45** Futbol Mundial **1.15** Football League **2.15** Rugby Club **5.15** Sports Centre **5.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Unbelievable Sports **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** World Pool League **10.00** Golf Extra **1.00** Australian Rally Championship **1.30** *Ringside* **3.00** *International Football* **4.00** International Football **5.00** Football League Review **6.00** What a Weekend **6.30** Inside the PGA Tour **7.00** Rugby Club Special **10.00** US PGA Golf **12.00** Formula Palmer Audi **12.30am** Formula Three **1.00** Trans World Sport **2.00** What a Weekend **2.30** US PGA Golf **4.30** Sports Centre **4.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00am *World Wrestling Federation* Superstars **1.00pm** Fish TV **2.00** Sports *Unlimited* **3.00** *Unbelievable Sports* **3.30** Rugby League World **5.00** Survival of the *Fittest* **5.30** *Formula Three* **6.00** *Formula* Palmer Audi **6.30** Futbol Mundial **7.00** *European Tour Golf* **10.00** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Motor Racing 8.30 Football 10.00 Football **12.00** Start Your Engines **1.00pm** *Motocross* **1.30** *Mountain Biking* **2.00** Tennis **3.30** Live Formula 3000 **4.15** *Football 6.00 Racing Line 7.00 Sumo 8.00* Boxing **9.00** Football **11.00** Racing Line *12.00 Motocross 12.30am Close*

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** *EastEnders 8.30 The Bill 9.00 The Bill* **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** *Dallas 11.55 Neighbours* **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Bugs **2.00** Dallas **2.55** *The Bill 3.25 The Bill 3.55 EastEnders* **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** Dangerfield **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** *Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em 7.40 Last of the* Summer Wine **8.20** Dad's Army **9.00** Only *Fools and Horses* **9.40 FILM: The Jerk (1979)** **11.30** The Bill **12.00** The Bill *12.30am Between the Lines* **1.25** The Young Ones **2.05** The Young Ones **2.45** *Shopping with Screenshop*

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Wish Me Luck **7.00** Plus On Plus *7.30 The Odd Couple 8.00 Families* **8.30** Mind Your Language **9.00** Classic *Coronation Street 9.30 Emmerdale 10.00* Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** Charlie's *Angels 12.00 Classic Coronation Street* **12.30pm** Emmerdale **1.00** Mind Your *Language 1.30 Me and My Girl* **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat *4.00 The Professionals 5.00 Charlie's* Angels **6.00** Emmerdale **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** Benny Hill **9.00** The Sweeney **10.00** Hale and Pace **10.30** The Comedians **11.00** Granada Men and Motors

Dilbert stars with his dog, Dogbert, in the animated spin-off of the popular cartoon strip (Sky One, 8.30pm)

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** Animal SOS **6.30** Our House **7.00** Boon **8.00** Cut and Run **8.30** Birds Of a Feather Special **9.00** St Elsewhere **10.00** A Difficult Woman **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00** Tales of the Unexpected **12.30am** Gridlock **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am *Gummi Bears 6.25 Classic Toons* **6.35** Talespin **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New *Adventures of Winnie the Pooh* **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.07** Animal Shelf **9.17** *Pocket Dragon Adventures 9.30 Bear in the* Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.12** Rosie and Jim **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter *11.00 Sesame Street 12.00 The Adventures* of Spot **12.07pm** Animal Shelf **12.17** Pocket Dragon Adventures **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.12** Rosie and Jim **1.30** The Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: Sword in the Stone (1963)** **8.20** *Honey I* Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.10** Dinosaurs **10.00** *Home Improvement* **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Dr Quinn **11.50** Classic Toons **12.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo **6.55** Spiderman **7.20** Oggy **7.30** Dennis and Gnasher **8.00** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **8.25** The Incredible Hulk **8.50** Iron Man **9.15** Fantastic Four **9.40** X-Men **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** Eek!Stravaganza **11.05** Bobby's World **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to *Rent* **12.20pm** The Secret Files of the Spy Dogs **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli: The New Adventures of the Jungle Book **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** Eek!Stravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am *Extreme Ghostbusters 6.30 Bruno* the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Hey *Arnold!* **8.30** *Doug 9.00 Children's BBC* **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Papa Beaver *Stories 11.00 The Magic School Bus* **11.30** PB Bear/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00** *Rugrats* **12.30pm** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Franklin **2.00** *Paddington Bear/Lizzie's Library/Portland* Bill/Mr Men/Ivor the Engine **2.30** Children's *BBC 3.00 Children's BBC 3.30 Doug* **4.00** Angry Beavers **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister *Sister 5.30 Kenan and Kel 6.00 Sabrina the* Teenage Witch **6.30** Alex Mack **7.00** Close

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law 9.00 Cops 9.30 The Late Lounge **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling *10.30 Erotic Confessions 11.00* **FILM: Platoon (1986)** **1.30am** The Late *Lounge* **2.00** *Martial Law* **3.00** *FILM: Up!* **(1976)** **5.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling *5.30 Cops 6.00 Close*

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Caroline in the City **8.00** *Mad About You* **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line Is It Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** Spin City **12.00** Late *Night with David Letterman* **1.00am** Garry Shandling's Show **1.30** Nurses **2.00** Almost *Perfect 2.30 Tibs and Fibs 3.00 Mork and* Mindy **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **10.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00** The Twilight Zone **12.30pm** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Space Precinct **7.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **8.00** PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal **9.00** Babylon 5 **10.00 FILM: Fluke (1995)** **11.45** Sci-Focus Special **12.00** Twin Peaks **1.00am FILM: Poltergeist II (1986)** **2.40** Sci-Focus Special **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Simply Painting **6.30** Instant Gardens **7.00** Garden Calendar **7.30** The *Great House Game* **8.00** Australia's Strangest Home Improvements **8.30** The Close Guide **9.00** The Joy of Painting **9.30** Grassroots **10.00** Instant Gardens **10.30** Antiques Challenge **11.00** Hooked on Fishing with Paul Young **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Total Fishing with Matt Hayes **12.00** These Four Walls **12.30pm** Doorstep DIY **1.00** The Furniture Guys **1.30** Gimmee Shelter **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Two's Country

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** The Diceman **5.00** Secret Fleets **6.00** Outback Adventures **6.30** The Lion's Share **7.30** How Did They Build That? **8.00** Medical Detectives **8.30** Medical Detectives **9.00** Discover Magazine **10.00** Raging Planet **11.00** The FBI Files **12.00** The FBI Files **1.00am** How Did They Build That? **1.30** The Diceman **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00am Hollywood Safari **2.00pm** Hunters **3.00** Lions **4.00** Lions **5.00** Wild Rescues **6.00** Pet Rescue **7.00** Wildlife SOS **7.30** Wildlife SOS **8.00** Animal Doctor **9.00** Emergency Vets **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Emergency Vets **10.30** Emergency Vets **11.00** Emergency Vets **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm The Dolphin Society **7.30** Mischievous Meerkats **8.30** In the Footsteps of Crusoe **9.00** Extreme Earth: Beating the Blizzards **9.30** Extreme Earth: Tornado Alley **9.45** Extreme Earth: North Sea Storm **10.00** Killer Storms: Hurricane **11.00** On the Edge: Born for the Fight **12.00** Shipwrecks: Lifeboat — Friendly Rivals **12.30am** Shipwrecks: Lifeboat — Let Not the Deep Swallow Me Up

HISTORY

4.00pm Secrets of War: Cold War — The Strangelove Factor **5.00** Big Guns **6.00** Dr Livingston, I Presume? **6.55** Photos for the Future **7.00** The Green Berets

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** Chef for a Day **10.30** Jenny Bristow's Country Cooking **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** Ideal Home Cooks **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** Food Factory **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** The Green Gourmet **2.00** Retrospectives **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Simply Fish **3.45** More Simply Antony **4.30-5.00** Mridula's Indian Kitchen

LIVING

6.00am Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.30** Animal Rescue **7.00** Professor Bubble **7.25** Caillou **7.30** Polka Dot Shorts **7.40** Johnson and Friends **7.50** Babaloos **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** My Zoo **8.30** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** Home and Away **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Through the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30** Special Babies **3.00** Living Room **3.50** Michael Cole **4.40** Home and Away **5.10** Through the Keyhole **5.40** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** LA Law **9.00 FILM: Other Women's Children (1993)** **11.00** Sextasy! **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Hasya Tera Ghar Vasya **5.30** Hit Thi Hit Hai **6.00** Hero Kal Aaj Aur Kal **6.30** *Awaz Nayee Andaz Wohi* **7.00** *Faith* **7.30** News **8.00** Karoban Dunya **8.30** Tara 2 **9.00** *Zanjeeren* **9.30** *Zee Health Show* **10.00** Urdu Drama **11.00** Pot Luck **11.30** Parampara **12.00 Tamil FILM: Carling Darling** **3.00pm** Bangla TV Nokhatrer Rat **3.30** Public Demand **4.00** Filmi Chakkar **4.30** Fardeal Antakshari **5.30** Teacher **6.00** Pop Time **6.30** Hip Hip Hurray **7.00** Gudgudee **7.30** Cinemagic **8.00** News **8.30** Chahal Aur Natrat **9.00** Hasratein **10.00** Pakistan News **10.30** X-Zone **11.30** Emirates World of Cricket **12.00** News **12.30am** Business **1.00** Bangla TV **1.30** Parivartan **2.00 Hindi FILM: Anokha Prem Yuch** **4.30** An Hour With



SURFING 45
Women's champion faces formidable tide of opposition

SPORT

CRICKET 48
Kendall gives his bat a winter rest and Hampshire feel benefit



THURSDAY APRIL 29 1999

Keegan's shadow side acquit themselves well before Hungary stage second-half rally

England draw on their reserves

Hungary	1
England	1

FROM OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN BUDAPEST

IN THEIR search for meaning from the match that nobody wanted, England found five debuts and a penalty in the Nep Stadium last night, but could not prevent a spirited Hungary team from staining Kevin Keegan's nascent international record as a manager with its first blemish.

England seemed to have won the game with a first-half penalty from Alan Shearer after the captain was fouled, but they were subjected to a siege after the interval and Janos Hrutka equalised with a fiercely struck 25-yard free kick 13 minutes from the end.

The result dashed Keegan's *fond hopes of winning all four* of the matches that he has agreed to oversee as caretaker coach, but it is unlikely to harm morale in the run-up to the European championship qualifying matches against Sweden and Bulgaria in June.

This, after all, was an experimental side built on pragmatism and compromise, which gave debuts to Michael Gray, Kevin Phillips, Emile Heskey, Jamie Carragher and Wes Brown. Steve McManaman looked promising, if not outstanding, in his free role and Phillips fluffed one easy chance. Still, Shearer could have won the game in the dying minutes if he had not slipped as he tried to latch on to a cross from Phil Neville.

England had started confidently. If the game was supposed to be yet another *trial* for McManaman, he had started his defence well. Not a touch went awry and his teasing dribbles tied the Hungary defence in knots.

McManaman, so often condemned to the periphery of play in England games, was relishing the free role that Keegan had given him. Buttressed by the combative trio of Tim Sherwood, Nicky *Butt and David* Batty, McManaman was at the heart of England's attacking ideas.

Against the run of play, though, Hungary nearly took the lead in the fourteenth minute. There seemed little danger when Istvan Pisont collected a loose ball outside the England area after Phillips *had inadvertently headed the* ball into his path. But when Pisont slipped a neat pass into *the box, Bela Illes, Hungary's* best player, sprung a rather feeble attempt at an offside trap and advanced on David Seaman. He lashed his shot at goal, aiming for power not placement, but Seaman had stayed on his feet long enough to push it high over the bar.

Hungary might have scored again six minutes later when Brown, who looked the least certain of the inexperienced players in the England side, slipped as he tried to turn away from Attila Korsos. Korsos pounced on the error and as he shaped to shoot, Brown pulled him down. Hungary appealed for a penalty, but the *referee rightly ruled that the* offence had taken place outside the area and the home side wasted the free kick.

Shearer interrupted their next attacking move, in the 22nd minute, to set McManaman racing down the right and, when he lost possession, Shearer was first to the loose ball. *As* he burst into the area he was brought down by Gabor Halmai and the referee awarded a penalty. The Hungarians protested vigorously, but Shearer dispatched his kick emphatically. It was his 23rd international goal in 49 appearances.

*Five minutes after that, Shearer turned provider, slip*ping a clever pass into the path of Phillips, who had timed his run into the box beautifully. With only the goalkeeper to beat, Phillips, the most clinical finisher in the Nationwide League, should have scored, but he seemed to snatch at his shot and hit it close enough to Gabor Kiraly to allow him to save with his legs.

England were the dominant side now and Shearer might have added a second goal after half an hour. He forced his way past Janos Matyus and held him off just long enough to strike a low, right-foot shot *that seemed to have evaded* the goalkeeper, but lodged underneath his body as he dived.

Sherwood spurned another chance before half-time, hooking his shot high over the bar from eight yards after a long throw from Neville had been flicked on at the near post.

Reprieved, Hungary were revitalised when they came out for the second half. Five minutes after the interval, Vilmos Sebok, their Bristol City defender, made his first notable contribution, hitting a ball over the top of the England defence. Tibor Dombi, who had been causing Neville the occa*sional problem down the England left with his pace*, nearly surprised Seaman by hitting it first time on the volley as it dropped over his shoulder.

Seaman was equal to that effort, though, sprawling to his right to smother his shot, and a minute later he denied him again, this time leaping to tip his curling right-foot shot from the edge of the area over the crossbar.

Still Hungary pressed forward and it took a fine saving tackle from Martin Keown to deny Illes as he surged into the box after a pass from Dombi.

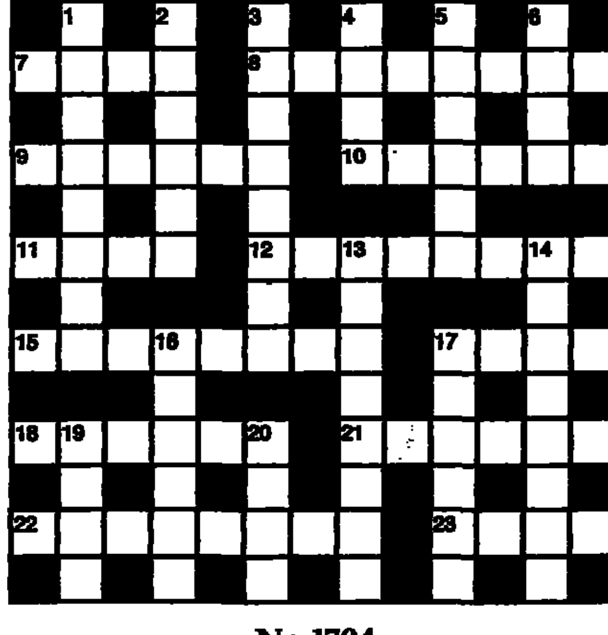
Just when it seemed that England were safe, though, Hrutka curled his 77th-minute, right-foot free kick over the England wall and past Seaman's half-hearted leap into the roof of the net.

HUNGARY (4-3-3): **G Kiraly** (Herta BSC) — **G Korsos** (Gyori ETO; sub. **N Toth**, Ujpest, 65min), **J Hrutka** (FC Kaiserslautern), **V Sebok** (Bristol City), **J Matyus** (Ferencvaros) — **G Halmai** (MTK Hungaria), **I Pisont** (Eintracht Frankfurt, sub **J Somogyi**, Gyori ETO, 46), **P Dardai** (Herta BSC) — **T Dombi** (DVSC Epona), **B Illes** (MTK Hungaria), **A Korsos** (Ujpest)

ENGLAND (4-3-1-2): **D Seaman** (Arsenal) — **W Brown** (Manchester United; sub. **M Gray**, Sunderland, 73), **M Keown** (Arsenal), **R Ferdinand** (West Ham United; sub: **J Carragher**, Liverpool, 62), **P Neville** (Manchester United) — **T Sherwood** (Tottenham Hotspur), **D Batty** (Leeds United), **N Butt** (Manchester United) — **S McManaman** (Liverpool; sub: **J Redknapp**, Liverpool, 85) — **K Phillips** (Sunderland; sub: **E Heskey**, Leicester City, 83), **A Shearer** (Newcastle United)

Referee: L Frohlick (Germany)

Shearer, having won the penalty, dispatches it with typical forcefulness to give England their first-half lead against Hungary at the Nep Stadium last night. Photograph: Marc Aspland



No 1704

ACROSS
7 Override yes-vote (4)
8 — Swinburne; — Moncrieff *(Wilde)* (8)
9 With unusual talent (6)
10 Resounds (6)
11 Bad-luck bringer (4)
12 Immature (behaviour) (8)
15 Fearless (8)
17 Throw violently (4)
18 Pursued; engraved (6)
21 Speculative ploy (6)
22 Realisation (of plan) (8)
23 Advance (2,2); fool, (US) thug (4)

DOWN
1 Act undermining state (8)
2 Grey matter (of brain) (6)
3 Disadvantage (8)
4 Frightening monster (4)
5 Bee, fly, lady, monkey flower (6)
6 Folk wisdom (4)
13 Poor (8)
14 One who pulls through (8)
16 Biggest-land-area country (6)
17 Public respect (paid) (6)
19 Damage (4)
20 Platform for eg high table (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1703
ACROSS: 1 Spiked 5 Bubble 8 Gong 9 Velocity 10 Target 12 Awry 15 Madison Avenue 16 Fens 17 Deride 19 Brandish 21 Weep 22 Aplomb 23 Parade
DOWN: 2 Propagate 3 Keg 4 Devotion 5 Bell 6 Buccaneer 7 Lit 11 Glissando 13 Roundhead 14 Hardship 18 Limb 20 Rip 21 War

McManaman makes all the running in bid to prove point

Matt Dickinson watches the Madrid-bound player attempt to show his real credentials

Kevin Keegan had talked of Steve McManaman laying some ghosts to rest while many others had predicted that his performance would come back to haunt him. In the end, the sides in the great McManaman debate had to settle for a draw last night, just as England did in the Nep Stadium.

There have been occasions this season when Real Madrid must have felt like turning a blind eye to Liverpool games rather than watch McManaman's laboured efforts in a poor side. Injuries and falling confidence had taken their toll. His club had appeared to put him in isolation.

With the three drones of Butt, Batty and Sherwood to perform the mundane work last night, McManaman could buzz around like the queen bee. There were times when he appeared to be dropping too deep to be really dangerous, but he could not be faulted for effort. It was not hard to see why he was once a champion cross-country runner in his schooldays.

The great dilemma over what to do with McManaman is seen as the player's fault as well as that of successive England coaches, but it goes far deeper than that. It is English football's problem that there are so few players who can penetrate the best defences with quick-footed runs from midfield. Paul Gascoigne was the last, which makes his passing as an international footballer all the more disappointing.

In the absence of alternatives — Lee Hendrie is too young, Paul Merson too troubled — Keegan is hoping that McManaman can be the player who unlocks defences at critical moments, that he can be England's Zidane, Baggio or Rivaldo. It is a mighty task for the 27-year-old and one which he needs time to learn. It is unlikely, though, that he will be allowed that luxury.

He did, at least, play with a confidence that had been non-existent during Glenn Hoddle's reign. When McManaman missed the Tournoi because of injury, the former England coach constructively informed him that "I don't get mad, I get even". It was not the sort of thing that boosts a player's morale and the unease between player and coach persisted until Hoddle's departure.

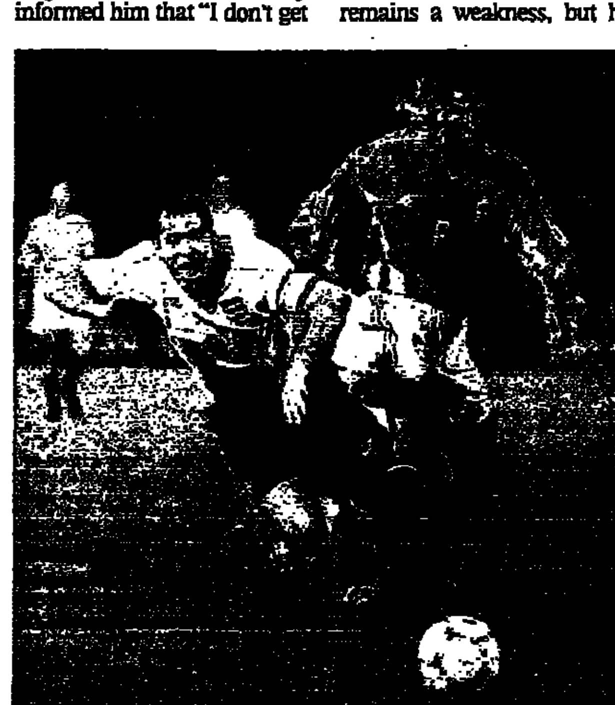
That disgruntlement with the international scene has now disappeared and McManaman, until he was ordered into a more orthodox right-wing role in the second half, worked hard to prompt England moves. His inability to whip dangerous crosses in the mode of David Beckham remains a weakness, but he *proved hard for the Hungarians to contain.*

It was a willingness to experiment that was spread throughout the England team and which can almost certainly be attributed to the caretaker coach. The objections to this match were many and justified, but Keegan could rally the nation behind a game of bowls and it certainly did not feel like a wasted evening in the Nep Stadium.

That could partly be attributed to the locals who retain a slightly bizarre respect for English football, even though the Mighty Magyars were proving too strong for England as far back as 1953 with that 6-3 victory at Wembley. They turned up in huge numbers last night and were no more passive than their team.

But the interest in the game was also fuelled by the attitude of the England players, who appeared to treat this match as though it might be their last. In some cases, that may be the case. Kevin Phillips will return to Sunderland and to the back of a queue of forwards that includes Owen, Fowler and Cole among others.

He can do so, though, happy that he enjoyed the occasion, attempting a few optimistic long-range drives and coming close to a goal when he was put through by Shearer midway through the first half. He should have done better than shoot low and hard at the goalkeeper's legs. If he played without obvious nerves, even though he had been plucked from Baldock Town and a B&Q forklift truck only four years ago, it was perhaps because he found himself being marked by a man from Bristol City.



Shearer is sent tumbling in the penalty area in the incident that allowed England to take the lead

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